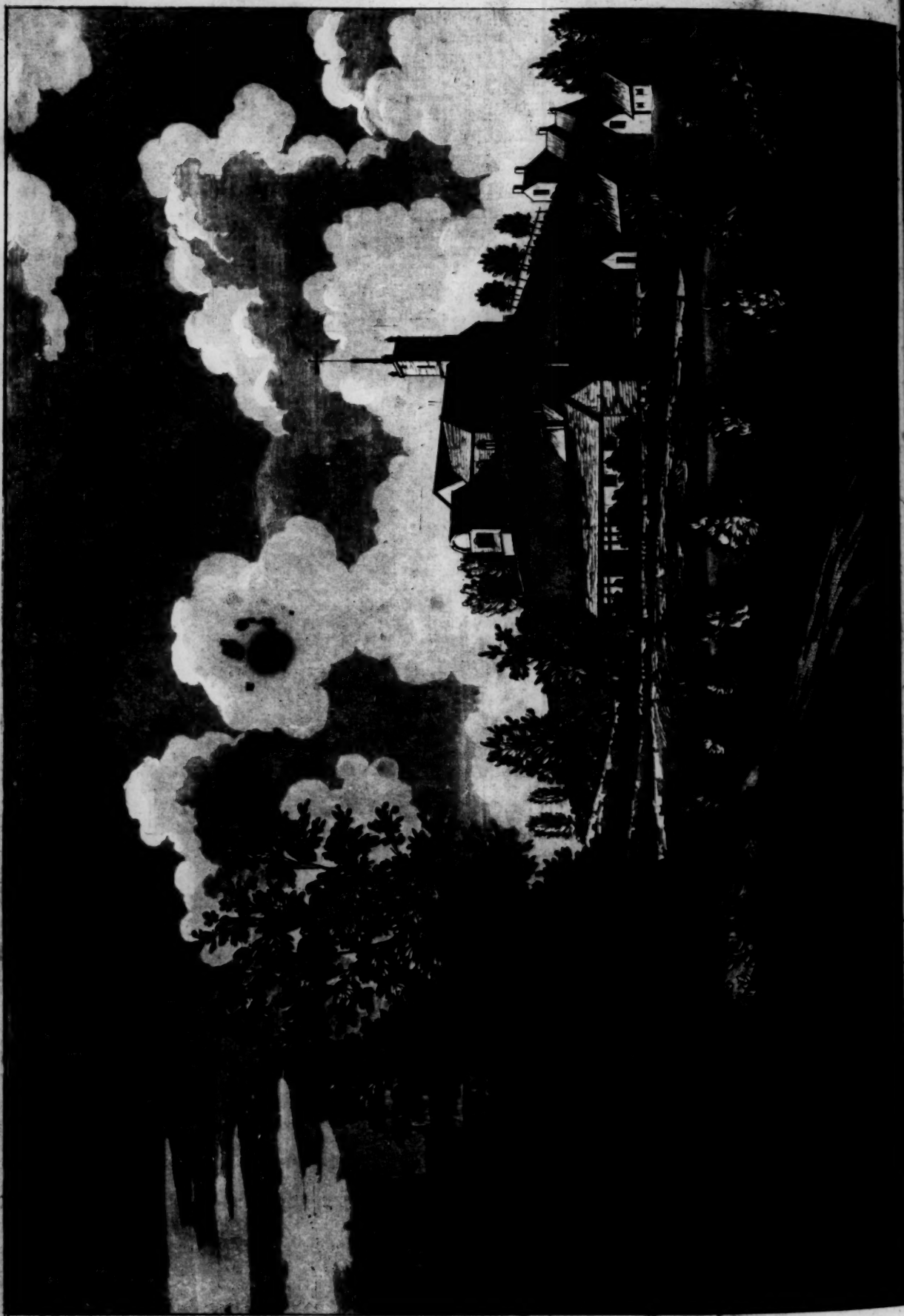
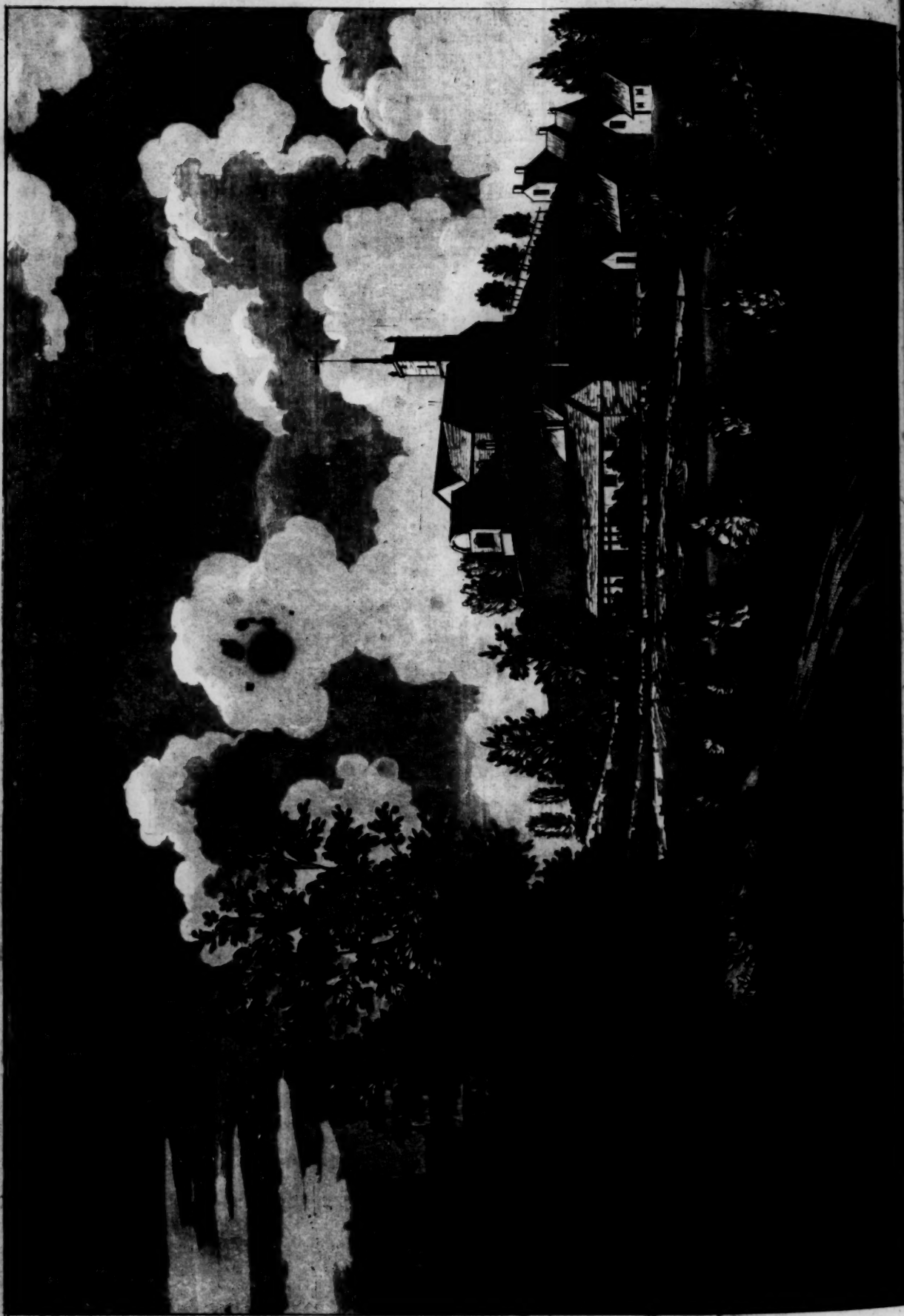






THE
HISTORY
AND
ANTIQUITIES
OF
SHENSTONE,
In the COUNTY of STAFFORD,
ILLUSTRATED.

TOGETHER WITH

The PEDIGREES of all the FAMILIES and GENTRY,
both antient and modern, of that Parish.

By the late Rev. HENRY SANDERS, B.A. of ORIEL COLLEGE,
OXFORD, and Thirteen Years Curate of SHENSTONE.

LONDON,
PRINTED BY AND FOR J. NICHOLS,
PRINTER TO THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, 1794.



MISCELLANEOUS ANTIQUITIES,
(IN CONTINUATION OF
BIBLIOTHECA TOPOGRAPHICA BRITANNICA,)

Nº IV.

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TO THE WORTHY PARISHIONERS OF SHENSTONE,
IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.



BE pleased to accept this Dedication of the following History as a small token of my Regard and Esteem. For, although so long a time has elapsed since I was resident at Shenstone, when my father had the care of that extensive and happy Parish, and, notwithstanding the many vicissitudes in Families, so that I may not be remembered by all the present, yet no time or circumstance can obliterate from my mind the kindnesses I received from many, and that friendship I entertained for you in my infant years. You have here, my worthy Friends, presented to you a History of your Forefathers, probably a more lasting monument than was ever erected to the memory of your deceased Relatives.—Accept it as the labour of your faithful Pastor, who loved you, and was, he presumed, beloved by you; accept it, as undertaken by him from pure love to all the Parishioners, and which had been never compleated, through its immensity of labour, perhaps of expence, if he had imagined it would not have proved for the entertainment and benefit of most, and you would not have regarded it. Several of my esteemed Friends among you have been anxiously desirous of possessing this Work; I therefore diligently sought a fit and

convenient opportunity of bringing it forward to public view; and am much indebted to Mr. NICHOLS, the Friend of learned Antiquaries, for his kind assistance in indulging mine and your wishes.

The study offered to you in the subsequent pages has been of great utility to many families, both of small and considerable property.—Often was the Author employed in tracing the lineage of those who entreated his assistance; and, it is believed, many were greatly indebted to him for the discovery of their just and lawful inheritance.

That this may be acceptable to you, whether on account of its utility or entertainment, is the sincere wish of

Your faithful Friend,

*Wilderness-Row,
St. John's, Clerkenwell
London,
March 18, 1794.*

and humble Servant,

JOHN BUTLER SANDERS.



A Short ACCOUNT of the AUTHOR.

SOME account of the Author and his Family, though they were not descended, as far as we can trace, from any illustrious ancestors, may not be unacceptable to, if not required by, the Reader. It is supposed that a religious persecution, or the inconvenient situation of Lorraine in times of war between France and Germany, occasioned a Mr. Titery, of Nantz in that dutchy, a person of piety and respectability, to take refuge in England, to avoid some calamity which awaited him. His daughter, named Anne, was married to Thomas Rogers, of Wales, afterwards an eminent dealer in glass at Holloway Head, near Stourbridge, Worcestershire. Thomas and Anne Rogers had a daughter, Sarah, who was married to Henry Sanders *, of Stourbridge. The issue of this marriage were Thomas Sanders of that town, a very learned and ingenious surgeon and apothecary, much esteemed by the celebrated George lord Lytton, as also by a very populous neighbourhood, for his great success in inoculation, his personal character, and his ability in his profession; Sarah, wife of William Grosvenor, of Kidderminster, apothecary; Henry, Anne, Susanna, Daniel, and John. As their father died during the minority of the younger

* A branch of this family has long been seated in Essex.

children,

children, they came under the care of their brother Thomas, who disposed of each as circumstances and opportunities served.

Henry seemed to be rather more favoured than his brothers Daniel and John, being, by education, good abilities, and the particular notice of the family of Rogers, well fitted for a somewhat superior rank in life. Though designed for the cloathing business, his genius and inclination led him to the study of medicine. He was a noted and valuable apothecary and chemist at Dudley in Worcestershire, and was the inventor of a very useful medical composition, which, in that part of the world, is exceedingly admired, and for which receipt a considerable premium was offered by a learned physician. This Henry married Miss Rebecca Hawkes, of a respectable family, the descendants of whose brother live in great credit, and one, if not two of them, in opulence at Dudley. Henry Sanders had, by his wife Rebecca, eleven children living at one time, and at least nine at his decease; the eldest of whom was Henry, the author of the following History.

Their father, with all his care and industry, was unable to provide them any pecuniary advantages worth mentioning, having barely a competency to support himself and daughters in the decline of life. A circumstance particularly favourable, however, attended his three eldest sons, the benefit of a grammar school, which was highly blessed with two succeeding masters; the former a relation, the Reverend Pynsen Wilmott, M. A. afterwards vicar of Hales-Owen, Salop; and the latter the Reverend Benjamin Clements, B. A. afterwards prebendary of the collegiate church, minister of St. John's, and head master of the grammar-school, in Wolverhampton. Henry, having attained an excellent classical education, was well qualified for either of the three learned professions, and the clerical suited more the dis-

disposition of his mind, while the other two decidedly chose the medical. At length a great difficulty arose how he could be supported at the University, even in the most frugal manner, since his father could spare but little from so large a family. A circumstance indeed occurred, which by many persons would have been eagerly embraced. There was a contest between two distinguished houses for the representation of the county in parliament; and it was confidently said, that a nobleman made an offer to farther the education of Henry, and advance him in future life, if his father would consent. Such a friendship might be, perhaps, owing to his lordship's esteem for a near relation; but the father would by no means accept the offer, his interest and regard being entirely devoted to the service of the noble family at Himley. By dint of industry and ability, however, Henry procured an exhibition or clerkship in Oriel College, and was appointed by that society to perform duty in king Edward's Hospital*, a small distance from Oxford, before he was in orders.

By great prudence, many friends, and the favour of the College, he combated every pecuniary difficulty, and took the degree of B. A.; which when he had determined, he left the University, being desirous of encountering no farther trouble in the pursuit of academical degrees. But, although he had abandoned such inconveniences in the University, he had another still to struggle with immediately, and that was how to be admitted into holy orders, notwithstanding all his literary merit. He found it no easy matter to obtain a title, as curacies were at that time scarce, and the then bishop of Worcester treated him rather un-

* A little hospital, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, about half a mile East from Oxford, probably founded by Henry I. and given by Edward III. 1328, to Oriel College, who were to maintain therein a chaplain and eight poor brothers.

Tanner, Not. Mon. p. 421.

graciously ; so that, between his disappointments with the benefited clergy, his numerous journeys, many expences, and an almost empty purse, the whole story, as he related it, would incline the reader to laugh, though it would be impossible not to lament his situation. Some time after, having received holy orders, he resided upon a curacy at Wednesbury, about four miles distant from his native town, the annual income of which did not exceed 36*l*. Whilst he officiated at that place, a respectable and rather wealthy family attracted his esteem, which soon terminated in his marriage with the eldest daughter, Elizabeth Butler. Happy as the married couple were in themselves, one circumstance thwarted their views. Fortune seemed unpropitious ; for her family was not satisfied with her choice of a husband possessed of such a small income, and they were compelled to support themselves, and afterwards their infant, more than two years, upon 30*l*. stipend, and the vicarage house in an adjoining parish, West Bromwich. It was said, that her marriage was the only circumstance in her life in which she disobliged her father ; but, as some excuse of that deviation in the duty of both, the father at some times consented and at others objected to their marriage. Providence at length, after such a contented struggle with adversity, interposed in their behalf, and they were removed to Shenstone, a place not only delightful in its situation, but abounding with a number of worthy inhabitants. The author was no sooner appointed to this comfortable curacy, than he was invited to be one of the reading and domestic clergymen to Samuel Hill, esq. whose family is copiously treated of in the following pages. In him he not only obtained a friend, but a considerable increase of income, insomuch that the disobliged father abovementioned became so reconciled to his daughter as to settle upon her the portion of a child.

This sunshine of felicity was, nevertheless, soon to be lost in a dark cloud of adversity : he not only lost by death his worthy
bene-

benefactor Mr. Hill, who would in all probability have been his patron; but his amiable wife did not survive her going to Shenstone perhaps more than four years; a lady whose pious life, and glorious death, were the admiration of all the country, especially of those persons who had the happiness of her acquaintance. The evening (Sunday) before she departed, she desired to see her only child, who was not five years old; after giving him some important instructions for his future life, it was her express order, that he should choose no other profession than that of a minister of Christ; that, be his fortune ever so small, he should disregard lucre, care of preferments, &c.; for that *that* employment, properly discharged, was superior to any other in the world. The next morning, about seven o'clock, she spoke in transport of the eternal joys which awaited her, sang an hymn, and instantly expired. Suffice it to say, that her son is of the sacred profession, now resident in London *.

Our author still continued his curacy of Shenstone, in his own words, "loving and beloved by his parishioners," till about the end of thirteen years, when, unhappily for himself, and disagreeably to all his flock, he accepted a station in king Edward the Sixth's school, at Birmingham, with a design to superintend the education of his son, and obtain for him an exhibition to college: Within two years of his leaving the curacy of Shenstone, he was engaged by Humphry Minchin, esq. now member of parliament for Boffiney, as private tutor to his two eldest sons, who, removing to Birmingham for education in that school, represented their former instructor in such a favourable view to the Reverend Mr. Brailsford, head master, that the then vacant place of assistant-teacher to the upper boys proved an allurements, with a curacy, and the idea of superintending his son's education, to

* Curate of St. Alban's, Wood-street; Lecturer of St. Olave's, O'd Jewry; and late fellow of Worcester College, Oxford.

withdraw Mr. Sanders from Shenstone. His heart, however, being with his beloved people, and uneasy from the place he so delighted in, he was frequently occupied in preparing the History of the Parish where he had spent the happiest time of his life. Though he afterwards gained a comfortable settlement as master of the free grammar-school at Hales-Owen, Salop, by the favour of George lord Lyttelton, and through the recommendation of some friends, and also the perpetual curacy of Oldbury chapel, to which he was presented by the Reverend Pynson Wilmot; yet no place afforded him consolation like Shenstone; where, though he had it not in his power to end his days, agreeable to his wishes, his will expressly charged, and it has been particularly complied with, that his remains should be deposited in the church where his pastoral duties had been so particularly acceptable.

From the time of his appointment at Hales-Owen, which was in the year 1771, till his decease, which happened in 1785*, few circumstances intervened worth recording. He had laid aside all thoughts of preferment, seemed little anxious about popular esteem, and devoted himself to retirement and study. Having always a passion for learning, he was tolerably conversant in almost every branch of Literature, more especially in Theology, History, and the Classics. Had his abilities met with due encouragement in the early part of life, he would have made a conspicuous character in the learned world. The Reader, however, will be pleased to accept the following work as the production of a grateful mind, and as a token of regard for his parishioners. Nor think it an unprofitable pursuit. The study of antiquity has not been considered beneath the attention of the most enlarged understanding. To this the greatest empires in modern times have been indebted, by making improvements on

* The son was at that time minister of the English church at Gottenburg.

former

former manners, customs, and inventions. View Britain in the zenith of her glory, flourishing in every art and science; what has she not derived from former ages? Surely then it cannot be considered a trifling employment, to develope the histories of ages past, to bring to remembrance our deceased ancestors, and to honour the worthy with a grateful tribute of our esteem.

It is true, our author has paid more attention to a limited part of that study, than to the study of antiquities in general: but, the case is similar in almost every art and profession.

Where is the artist, whether in Sculpture or in Painting, that does not devote his skill to some one branch of the art? Is the same person equally skilful and successful in every thing?

So also in Medicine and Law. Some of their professors are peculiarly excellent in some cases, who suffer their judgement to give place in others. Suffice it, therefore, to esteem merit however limited it may appear.

Upon this ground of reasoning we may fairly decide, that the following pages have their peculiar worth. The History of Shensstone is, doubtless inferior to that of Warwickshire, yet is it on a similar plan; but, so long as England exists, the name and merit of Dugdale will neither be forgotten nor despised. We might present to you examples of the most eminent writers in very antient times, and point out the advantages of their labours. We might recall to mind the celebrated names of those who, a few centuries ago, attached themselves to this study in France. We might enumerate many of this kind in our own country, and of the present age, who have afforded ample testimonies of the value of their literary pursuits*.

* In antient times, Thucydides, Polybius, Livy, Suetonius, Tacitus. In France: History of Provence, by Cæsar Nostradamus; of Languedoc, by Guil. Catel, &c. &c. In our own country, Leland, Camden, Dugdale, Burton, Chauncey, Somner, Drake, Borlase, Hutchins, Hasted, Nash, &c. &c.

But, setting aside the idea of any utility in such pursuits, the human mind has certainly some claim to the indulgence of harmless recreation, and to re-visit the mansions of departed worth. In fact, when the learned mind is directed to a study of this sort, it proves, by being introduced into families, a constant monument of those we knew, and the numbers we esteemed; and this monument may remain when all others are effaced and destroyed through the waste of time. But this is not all: we cannot too much encourage the study of Parochial Antiquities, or the Antiquities of Counties, with respect to its vast utility and importance. How many are deprived of their just inheritance by being unacquainted with their proper lineage! How many large and small estates descend in an unlawful channel, while those who should possess them may be involved in poverty and sorrow! Many were the instances that occurred to our Author, whereby he was enabled to assist the enquirer after little, as well as extensive property; and, now he is removed from the sight of men, he had done, while living, what he could to make his time profitable to survivors. It is believed there were more posthumous works than the present, which would have been serviceable to the publick if transmitted to the press; but, as he had bequeathed one to a noble lord, since deceased, in hopes he would have condescended to have published it, there were together with it carried many, very many manuscripts, which, we fear, are removed beyond the reach of recovery.

The present History of SHENSTONE, drawn up with great care and attention, after a long and painful discharge of the important duties of his sacred office, was, as has been already observed, prepared for the press by the Author during his residence at Birmingham, where he had an inclination to have printed it; and was afterwards from time to time improved during his residence at

Hales

Hales Owen. At the distance of twenty years, it is at length submitted to public inspection as left by Mr. Sanders, except with the addition in a very few places of a date, and occasionally of a supplementary link in the connexion of a pedigree.

The MSS. of Dr. Wilkes and Sir Simon Dægge, so frequently quoted in this work, are now in the possession of the Reverend Stebbing Shaw, junior; who is engaged in preparing from them, and other large collections, his intended History of Staffordshire. By the kindness of this gentleman, and of another learned friend, Samuel Pipe Wolferstan, esq. of Statfold (whose local situation and accurate attention to genealogical researches peculiarly qualified him for the task), the reader is presented with a few additional pages, which not only correct some errors of the press, but contribute in a great degree to complete the imperfections of the original MS.

J. B. S.



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T H E
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
O F
S H E N S T O N E.

SHENSTONE, or as it is written in ancient records *Sceriestan*, is situated in a pleasant part of the county of Stafford, by all travellers admired as a beautiful and well-watered spot, that part of it especially so named; neither may we wholly except some of its districts, which in some measure deserve notice, as will be evidenced when we treat separately of them. Such a method seems eligible, that this little account may be free as is possible from perplexity, and less obnoxious to censure. Elegance of expression will not be expected in such descriptions; but our aim shall be strictly to adhere to truth, and the best authority we can meet with to revive the history of this parish, and thereby engage, from some persons of leisure, who have better opportunities than my occasions have afforded me, more useful and agreeable observations. Whatever is here offered to the perusal of the Publick arose at first from a love of Antiquity and my private amusement.

Shenstone is usually divided into two great districts, under which the inhabitants in transacting their several concerns are from prescription arranged. These have the appellation of *Shenstone* and *Stonball*. The subdivisions are termed *Shenstone*, *the Moss*, *Wood-end*, *Radley Moor-end*, *Aston*, *Little Haye*, *Footberley*, *Lower or Netber Stonball*, *Upper Stonball*, *Lynne*, *Bosses*, *Thornes*, *Chesterfield*, *Wall*, *Hilton*, and *Swinfen*. The last of these is not in the parish, though in the constablewick, and a manor subjected to the lord of Shenstone.

Knowing no better reason for it, or any more certain proofs, I have ventured to say, that the two more general divisions of this place are from prescription. These are conjectured to have subsisted from time immemorial, or from the dissolution of the monastic institutions in the violent reign of king Henry VIII. The people to this day have some customs that indicate there were two separate churches and parishes. One churchwarden is always chosen by the Stonhall inhabitants; and though some attempts have been made to break in upon this rule by the minister's chusing his officer from the Stonhall side, yet have these on the other hand steadily preserved their claim by chusing the other officer even out of the opposite part. Overseers of the poor, overseers of the highways, and the constables, are appointed with the same caution, and not less tenaciously. When the bad roads of Shenstone hamlets have been indicted, the other part would pay no proportion. How the late act of parliament may have set the overseers of the high-roads or parish-ways upon the same footing, we cannot say*; but still the usual method is maintained in the choice of them, and in collecting the rates, as it is also in the churchwardens levies. There may, indeed, be offered some reasons why the Stonhall people are obstinate in this respect; this being obvious to every man, that

* It may here be proper to observe, that the present History was compiled in 1769.
I their

their roads must always be in a better condition than the others, arising in some degree from the nature of the soil, which is a light sand, and likewise from having the great road from London to Chester pass by them, as it were, in a corner, and therefore not often out of repair, or, if it happen, have very little to amend, and plenty of materials at hand. But of Shenstone it may be said, though the village itself stands on a sandy and dry situation, yet as the country round is nearly surrounded with water and marshy ground in consequence of it, it must necessarily be more inconvenienced, and the ways repaired at a much heavier charge.

Large as the parish is, and extensive in circuit, it cannot be called populous, there being not more than two hundred and ten houses in it; the people, however, now residing therein (besides what tradition hath delivered to us) shew us in every hamlet where many have fallen, or have been suffered to decay, that the land allotted to them might be conveniently annexed to the adjoining farms.

The bounds of the parish are, Sutton Coldfield, with its park and chace running towards that part of Barr on which stands the famous beacon belonging to Aldrich, part of Walsall wood, near the Shire Oak, Cannoc Wood, Ogley Hay on the edge of it, Muckley, and the high road from Wall towards Chester, part of Wall town, as separated by the same way, called one of the Roman roads, part of St. Michael's belonging to the city of Lichfield, proceeding on still to Swinfen and Sweeford Hill to Sutton park.

Lesser limits, the nearest and most direct way, begin at Cats Hill. From the bank or barrow to Hilton are two miles, to Wall nearly one and a half, to Swinfen the same distance along the Street-way, to Little Hay one mile and a half, thence to Aston three miles, to the extent of the parish lands in Sutton-chace two

miles, back to Aston Mill two miles, to the hand post on Druid-Heath one mile, from this place to Lazy-Hill one mile, to Shire Oak upwards of a mile, and to the barrow at Cat's Hill about the same measure. This reckoning by no means takes in the real measure; for the whole, being computed on an exact survey with the account of the outlets on the extremes, was found to be about thirty-one miles in compass, and so delivered in to the present lord by Mr. Thomas Sheriff, of Cleobury Mortimer, a most accurate surveyor. To this we may add a story of a large portion of land upon the common heath, lost by neglect or indiscretion to the parish of Aldrich, which some persons confidently tell us, but with the air and circumstance of a fable. In three several parts the parish is between five and six miles diameter; but running out in different necks of land gives it an irregular form, neither oval nor round.

S H E N S T O N E.

The village of *Shenstone* is first to be treated of, as having the church in its center, and giving name to the whole; also containing many of the other berwicks and seats, as the Park, the Moss, Wood-end, Radley Moor-end, Aston, Fotherly, the Boffes, and Little Haye.

Shenstone stands nearly South of the city of Lichfield, at the distance of three measured miles; six from Tamworth, a good market town; thirteen from Birmingham, seven from Walsall, both large places, thirteen from Wolverhampton, nearly the same from Dudley, a place of note in very early times, famous for a castle built about the year 716; four miles from Sutton Cold-

Coldfield, one of the most delightful villages in this part of the kingdom.

The church is built nearly in the center of the town, on the summit of a hill gradually rising every way in the midst of an extensive vale. This site affords most engaging prospects of Hintz and Weeford hills, Aston hall, Barr beacon, Cannoc wood, Beaudefert, the seat of the Earl of Uxbridge, and the title of his barony, with its fine hanging wood, and that of Gentleshaw, and Stilecop; Hangewich chapel, Lichfield cathedral, St. Michael's lofty spire in that city, the churches of Aldrich and Whittington, Fisherwick, the seat of Arthur earl of Donegal *, the churches of Lullington and Clifton; with various places in Leicestershire. The ascent on which this structure stands is a soft sandy rock of a red cast; and the edifice itself was unquestionably built of a stone got a little mile off of a nature like the mines of Thomas Hill, of Tern in Salop, and of John Dolphyn, of the Moss, esqrs. now or lately worked, in this parish. When first cut out of the rock, it is soft, and easily formed into a proper shape; but, if it be exposed some time to the open air, becomes hard and durable, changing its colour to a whitish brown that looks tolerably handsome. The structure carries with it the face of antiquity, and hath been raised at several times, the body of it being supported with divers stone pillars; the porch to the South is modern, built of brick, and faced with polished stone at the same time with the new chancel; the tower, old as it appears, has been erected long since the church, of the same kind of stone, and of an height proportionable. Seen from the Birmingham and Sutton roads it greatly pleases, seeming to surmount a fine clump of fir trees in an adjoining

* The present marquis of Donegal (1792) is an English peer, by the title of baron Fisherwick.

field, planted on an eminence about a furlong from it. In the steeple are five good bells. Having no records to refer to, it is most difficult to ascertain the reign in which the church was built; but we are convinced that lord Robert D'Oyley found or erected one here soon after the Conquest. The present was probably erected before it came to the Crown, in the reign of Henry VI, by Richard Nevil earl of Warwick and Salisbury, called *Make-king*, who was known to live in great hospitality, and was ready to do acts most bountiful, even unsolicited, and which did not appertain to him. I may be mistaken; but, I judge good part of it must have been erected at least as early as Henry VI. And who was so likely to do it as that great man, who affected to satisfy every one, from a consummate policy and thirst of popularity, especially if requested to do his dependents and homagers such a favour? It is in the hundred of Offlow, and in the deanry of Tamworth. Something might in this place be offered to shew its greater antiquity, supposing the church not to stand due East and West, the East end declining to the North, and the West end Southwards. The compass being generally supposed to be invented before the year 1300, if the architect had really no assistance from it, it will follow that its foundation is prior to that date; yet this is scarcely credible. If the foundation of it was early, most likely all the direction then had was from the sun itself, which rising in summer more or less to the Northward, and in the winter proportionably to the Southward, might cause this and many others to decline from the East and West points, according to the time of the year wherein they were founded. The form of it is that of a cross; but whether it were so at first is hard to say, unless we grant that there was some building resembling that on the South side, called the Stonhall chancel. It is dedicated to *St.*

John

John the Baptist, and consists of a nave, one aisle on the North side, and three chancels; that to the North seems to be of equal date with the church, built of the same kind of stone, and supported with outward works to keep it from giving way, or falling through the injuries of time; that to the South is mostly of brick work, on two sides of which are the form of St. Peter's keys in bricks, burnt hard, of a blue cast, very large, and in the front of it are different figures of crosses of the same colour. The best and principal chancel, and which only is used as such, is an elegant modern structure, built by the late Samuel Hill, esq. of Shenstone Park, in the Venetian taste, at the expence of about four hundred and fifty pounds. The carved stones for capitals in the windows, and those with which the floor is laid, are white, brought from a noted quarry near Bilstone; the others were dug out of that before-mentioned, belonging to Mr. Hill. The beauty and neatness of this building, which indeed appears to advantage from the Lichfield road, much engages the attention of curious travellers, who are observed, not rarely, to stop and examine it, and take the views from the church-yard, which extend to Bardon hills near Leicester, with several parts of Derbyshire.

The advowson of this church being in Robert lord D'Oyley, came to his brother, who left lord Robert D'Oyley his son and heir, founder of Osney abbey, upon an island made by the river Isis near the castle of Oxford, at the earnest request of his wife, on the following occasion, as the monkish writers say. "She, with her gentlewoman, used to walk out of Oxford castle frequently for recreation, when her husband resided there; and several times amusing herself near the river side, saw many pyes gathered together on a great tree, making a great chattering as if

if they were saying something to her. She, much marveling at the matter, sent for Ralf a canon of St. Frideswide's (now Christ Church college), a man of virtuous life, her confessor, to advise with him; who, observing the manner of their chattering when she came, artfully answered, they were not pyes as she supposed, but so many souls in purgatory, uttering complaints for relief, hoping she would do something for their succour, and the health of hers and her posterity's souls, as her husband's uncle did in building a collegiate church. She promised her best endeavours to bring those wretched souls to rest; and by her importunity with her husband, with the consent of the archbishop of Canterbury *, the bishop of Lincoln †, her sons Henry and Gilbert, prevailed upon him to build a monastery in that place in the year 1129; to settle large endowments upon it, and make Ralf the canon prior of it ‡. Among others, the churches of *Senestan* or *Sbeneston*, with all its rights and lands, was given to this abbey of Oseney by the founder by Robert lord D'Oyley, his uncle, which church and lands assuredly were before, viz. 1075, annexed to St. George's collegiate church at Oxford, founded by his uncle, the first baron D'Oyley, and so continued till the founding of Oseney, 1129, when that church with all its revenues, and among the rest these churches, were passed over to it by a special charter §, confirmed by the King; and again by a charter of Henry D'Oyley, son of lord Henry D'Oyley, in the reign of John, or Henry III. with the consent of Robert D'Oyley || his brother, and his freemen who held of his fee, and then confirmed by the king **.

The secular canons of St. George's college at first deputed some of their members to take care of the church, and others

* Theobald. † Alexander. ‡ Leland, Itin. vol. II. pp. 19. 20.
 Mon. Angl. vol II. p. 136. Tanner, Nor. Mon. p. 417. § Tanner, ib. 418.
 || Son of King Henry I; brother by the mother to Lord Henry D'Oyley the elder.
 ** Mon. Angl. vol. II. p. 137, 138.

of the lands and farms, as did the regular canons of Ofeney, of the order of St. Augustine, and had, beside the vicarage for the residence of the clergy who were to officiate here, a grange near the church for receiving and storing their corn and fruits. At the Dissolution Henry VIII. kept the lands that appertained to Ofeney in his own hands for three years; and how this place was disposed of is not said, though in all likelihood it continued in the crown till very lately. The great or rectorial tythes were undoubtedly sold by the crown, and seem to have been long in the Brandreth family till purchased in the reign of George I. by the honourable and reverend Richard Hill, by whom they were settled upon his nephew, Samuel Hill, esq. On his decease, by virtue of the entail in 1758, they went to Thomas Hill, of Terne, esq. with the advowson of the living which Samuel Hill, esq. had procured from the crown in exchange, as I have been informed, for the living of Colchester in Essex. Thomas Hill, esq. passed it with the tythes to Samuel Hill, esq. his son and heir; who dying unmarried, Noel Hill, esq. member of parliament for the town of Shrewsbury, his brother and heir, enjoys them.

It may not be a vain conjecture to imagine, that as the earls of Warwick were heirs to the living at the Dissolution, if there had been no attainder after the battle of Barnet in 1471, John Dudley earl of Warwick, descended of that family, might claim it, and, being the greatest subject in England, might enjoy it also till the reign of queen Mary, and that Ambrose earl of Warwick might have it restored. This family, we know, did claim many estates of their maternal ancestors, earls of Warwick, and were allowed them by particular grants. Ambrose died without issue in 1589; and though he left his estate to the famous Sir Robert Dudley, made a duke of the Empire, king James I. got them

them in a great measure annexed to the crown; it may be that the tythes were given away or sold to the *Rugeley* family, who were succeeded in Shenstone by the *Brandretbs.*

The late Samuel Hill, esq. was a noble benefactor to the church. After he had got the advowson, he paid two hundred pounds to obtain queen Anne's bounty of the like sum, and joined with the people of Tamworth in purchasing of land at Thatchmore, near Fisherwick, in 1734. On a division made between the two parishes, about thirty-four acres were allotted to the minister of Shenstone, now in the holding of Mr. John Wright of Lichfield, and Brooks of Thatchmore.

The vicarage-house stands near the church, Westward, on a pleasing descent, having a prospect delightful enough, but by no means equal to the church-yard, and is in good condition, more than a hundred pounds having been expended upon it by the late vicar to rebuild one part, and repair the rest; adjoining to it are a barn, a stable erected by Samuel Hill, esq. convenient gardens, and three acres and a half of glebe land.

The first vicar we can trace out was Mr. Robert Bervis in queen Elizabeth's reign; the next Mr. Gervis, unless they are one and the same person, which from the bad writing I could not distinguish. He was in 1603 succeeded by the Reverend Arthur Cresset, living in 1610, from which time to 1655 no account of the vicars can be found; that year the Reverend Gamaliel Tunstall was both vicar and register, as he signs himself*. In 1663 the Reverend Michael Walford held the living. He died in September 1665, and was buried here on the 14th. We meet next with the reverend William Grace, A. M †; and after him in

* The register-office was instituted by the protector Oliver Cromwell.

† Who died in 1690, aged 90 and upwards See p. 14.

a little time the reverend Robert Grace, it may be son of William; Robert was living in 1721, but very aged. The next, 1723, was the Reverend George Crispe, who died July 1731, and was buried the 24th of that month. This gentleman had a large school of gentlemen boarders, many of whom yet survive, and for him was the school-house erected or enlarged, now termed the vestry-room. His widow, a person of fair character and known hospitality, long survived, dying in November 1766, at the age of 81, or more, and has left issue one son and two daughters. The minister who possessed the benefice on the decease of Mr. Crispe, was the Reverend John Leigh, of the ancient family seated at Rushal-hall. He died in March, 1743-4, leaving one daughter, living in 1768.

The Reverend Mr. Manwaring was the next vicar, but resigned it in three or four years; and was succeeded by the Reverend Thomas Cox, A. M. of Walsall, master of the Grammar-school in that town, minister of Bloxwich; which gentleman taking the living of Dunton-Basset in Leicestershire, by the law against holding pluralities without a dispensation, vacated this, to which, in February, 1759, the Reverend Edward Harwood, A. M. fellow of Clare-Hall, Cambridge, was presented; all which three persons were living in 1768. It is recorded of the Reverend Robert Grace, that he was the incumbent at this place 58 years; and that Rowland Smith, his clerk, held his office upwards of 57 years; the present clerk has had it 30 years.

The act of parliament first ordering register books to be kept in every parish passed in 1538, 29 Henry VIII; expressing that the clergyman should write the day and year of every wedding, christening, and burial, and in those books set down every person's name so married, christened, or buried. This was at the instigation, and by the particular interposition, of that great re-

former Thomas Cromwell, baron Okeham and earl of Essex, vicar-general, and vicegerent of king Henry VIII over all ecclesiastical persons in this kingdom, by virtue of which high office he sat uppermost in the convocations above all the clergy, the archbishops not excepted.

If such register was ever kept at Shenstone, it must have been destroyed, for nothing of this nature appears till the year 1579, 21 Eliz. In the month of March, amongst other notable occurrences, a visitation is recorded to have been holden at Shenstone upon August 6, 1606, attested by Arthur Cresset, vicar, John Sylvester, and John Hunt, churchwardens; and to this time the archdeacon of Staffordshire (at present, Edmund Law, D. D. a most ingenious learned divine and metaphysician, head of St. Peter's college, Cambridge) holds his visitation in this village in November, yearly. Likewise on July 14th, 1600, remark is made of a great visitation held by Richard * archbishop of Canterbury, at Lichfield; at which time a copy of the register was delivered in to his officers or commissioners. In 1655-6, notice is taken of an officer named the register, banns of marriage being thrice published in the church, John Smith, locksmith, the register, and Alice Garner, were married February 13th before Richard Floyer, of Hintz, esq. justice of the peace, by orders given by Oliver Cromwell †, signed Gamaliel Tuntall, the vicar, and John Smyth, register. In June 1656, the banns being published on three Lord's days,

* Bancroft.

† Oliver Cromwell's parliament of 1653 passed an act that all marriages should be made by a justice of peace, and the banns asked three several days in the next market. None were forbidden to be married by a minister, but without a justice of peace the marriage was void. On this many wary couple were married both ways. By the same act passed by Barebones Parliament, as it was named, a register was to be appointed in all parishes, and who was to keep an account of those marriages, whose ceremonies were performed by the justices.

Thomas

Thomas Wyatt of Footherley, and Sarah Miller of Chesterfield, were married before Richard Floyer, justice of the peace, April 4, 1659, Thomas Cooper and Thomas Ward being set down as churchwardens; Thomas Wyat and Rowland Serjeant, as overseers of the poor; Gamaliel Tunstall signs as vicar and register.

I had almost forgot that the clock was purchased and given for the use of the parish by the excellent lady Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Hill, esq. of Shenstone park; and in the church-yard is a neat dial set upon a pedestal of polished stone, with steps to ascend to it, placed there by Mr. Fryth at the charge of eleven pounds, not more ornamental than useful.

The church-yard is computed to consist of an acre of ground. Many years since a low wall was built round it; but on its decay, and not being thought sufficient fence, rails were set up against some parts of it nine or ten years ago; these decaying, the old wall was repaired with the remaining materials, and where it was requisite new walls of brick were raised by Mr. Hardwic of the Boffes, Mr. Smith of Nether Stonhall, churchwardens, and next year compleated by John Dolphyn, esq. and Mr. Wadams, who served that office. On two sides of the church are planted beautifully spotted sycamores, procured by Samnel Hill, esq. from St. John's, or Trinity college, Cambridge. These stand chiefly to the North and West; and with other trees near, being surmounted by the tower and some portion of the church, give in several directions the appearance of such an edifice in the midst of a grove. The whole, at a distance, resemble a hanging wood near a noble and stately plantation, happily adapted to the inequalities of the ground, so as to produce a most striking, and at the same instant a most pleasing effect, and will by all, even those of but a common taste, be acknowledged a fine rural landscape.

By

By a memorial in the church we are informed, that it was new-covered, cieled, and beautified, and many new seats erected, in the years 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, by the care and trouble of Mr. John Jackson of Chesterfield, who was content to be continued churchwarden with Mr. Samuel Brown of Footherley for those years, in order to the perfecting of so pious and decent a work. By these officers the wainscoting was set up for the greater warmth and conveniency, separating the belfry, and excluding the only two doors by which is any entrance.

In the South chancel are monuments of marble. Over the first, which is handsome, is an escutcheon of white marble with a coat of arms, parted per pale, Argent and Azure, on the first three right hands Vert, coupéd at the wrist, on the Azure three cinquefoils, Or; crest, on a wreath a right hand grasping a sword, proper.

Underneath, the following inscription;

Mary daughter of Sir Gabriel Lowe, of Newark in the county of Gloucester, knight, first married to Robert Ducie, of Little Aston in this parish, esq. and afterwards to Thomas Jolliffe*, of Coston in the county of Worcester, esq. exemplary for piety, and endowed with many virtues and eminent, which rendered her an ornament to her sex, lies buried near this place. She departed this life on or near the 6th day of May, in the 42d year of her age, anno Dom. 1663.

Her latter husband hath erected this monument in memory of so excellent and deserving a wife.

On a stone within a frame of wood as we enter the aisle from the North door, we read,

Εἰς τὰς αἰῶνας, ἀμήν.

Quod reliquum est Gulielmi Grace, A. M.

hujusque Ecclesiæ ritu Anglicano olim

Vicarii, hic reconditur.

Juxta

* In 1673 was Thomas Jolliffe, of Lecke, esq.

Juxta jacet Joanna Grace, prefati Gulielmi conjux unica.

E vivis excessit; illa anno

a Christi natu MDCLXVIII,

ætatis suæ præter propter LII;

Nonagenarius ille & ultra deceffit

tandem et in fide Christi obdormivit,

VII. idus Novembris, æræ Christianæ MDCXCIX.

J. Grace, ecclesiæ cathedralis Lichfield Thesaurarius,

ejusdemque Gulielmi ex Joannâ filius,

hunc lapidem sepulchralem pariter ac inscriptum

in memoriam parentum posuit, sacravit.

Besides the monument aforementioned, there stands a very neat one on the East side, directly opposite, of grey and black marble, and of curious workmanship; over it a coat of arms, party per pale, Argent, a fess, Gules, engrailed Azure, on it three lambs passant, Argent, between three Catherine wheels, Azure. Upon the monument of grey marble is a large urn of black marble, rather jutting out; and on a well-polished black one beneath, inserted in the grey marble, is the following inscription:

Near this place lies the body of Richard Scott, of Little Aston in this parish, esq. He married Anne one of the daughters of John Addyes, esq. of Moorhall in the county of Warwick, who also lies interred close by the remains of her dearly beloved husband. They left issue one only daughter, Mary the wife of Andrew Hacket, of Moxhul in the county of Warwick, esq. The aforesaid Mrs. Anne Scott caused this monument to be erected to testify the regard and great affection she bore to so tender a husband, and so valuable a friend. In the time of life they were signal examples of patience and resignation to the will of God, which they long manifested under the severest trials of bodily pain and infirmities. At the time of death they were full of comfortable hope of a more happy re-union hereafter. He was born 26 February, 1672, and died 6 June, 1734, aged 62. She was born 10 June, 1689, and died 25 November, 1754, aged 65.

The

The following gifts are fairly preserved on several tables in the church.

Richard Ruggeley, of Hawkseyard, esq. by his last will (proved in the prerogative court of Canterbury, 1623), gave the rents of several parcels of lands called Bulmores, lying in this parish, to the poor inhabitants of the same, to be distributed yearly on the feast day of St. Thomas for ever.

[These lands are 48 acres, of which twelve acres are in the holding of — Ridding of Upper Stonhall, twelve held by John Salt of the same hamlet, twelve held by John Sedgewick of Hilton, and about twelve more under a lease of 21 years to Thomas Adcock of Lyndon, at the yearly rent of 13l. 2s. 7d. $\frac{1}{2}$; which money is faithfully distributed to the poor of each hamlet without any deduction, in proportion to the wants of every person, and agreeable to lists given in by the officers and other inhabitants on the day appointed by the donor. Widows are first considered, and have not less than five shillings apiece if their circumstances in any degree require it; much to the commendation of those that distribute this charity, who thereby pay the greatest respect in their power to the memory of the pious benefactor, and their thankfulness to God, who disposed his heart thus to befriended the poor.]

Rowland Fryth, esq. lord of this manor, pursuant to an agreement made between his father, Edward Fryth, gent. lord of this manor, and the freeholders of the township of Fotherly, concerning the inclosing a waste piece of ground called Radley-moor, within the said township, did by deed convey one piece of the said waste ground called the Poor's Piece to trustees for the use of the poor inhabitants of Fotherley for ever; the rent to be distributed to and amongst them annually, by the major part of the freeholders of that township. This land is twelve acres and a half, let at five pounds ten shillings.

Granada Brown, the relict of the said Edward Fryth, and mother of the said Rowland, left the sum of fifty pounds in the hands of her said son, in trust; that he should lay out the same in lands, or otherwise, as he thought fit, so as the profit should be given, for ever, amongst the poor widows of the township of Lynn, and the two Stonhalls; or, for want of poor widows, to and amongst the other poorest inhabitants of the said townships; and be distributed annually upon the day of her death, which happened on the Feast of St. Matthias, 1696.

Mr. Thomas Cooper of Lynn, by his last will proved at Lichfield, 1667, gave ten shillings for ever to ten poor widows, or the poorest inhabitants of Lynn and the two Stonhalls; to be issued out of lands called Nickin's Farm, to be distributed annually on the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle for ever.

Mr. Wenloe Sedgewick, of Little-Aston, gave the sum of three pounds to the poor inhabitants of Little Aston, and left the same in the hands of his son James to be disposed of accordingly; the interest of this is distributed to the poor of Little Aston by James Moss, tenant to John Butler, gent.

John Stubbs, of Huntington near Cannoe, gent. (to whom or family John Butler devised the estate at Aston, formerly Sedgewicks) says, his tenant. Jackson pays yearly five shillings to Aston poor.

A crimson velvet pulpit cloth, with a cushion of the same, fringed and tasseled with gold and silk fringe, was given by Dr. William Gibbons of London, fellow of the College of Physicians there, whose mother was a native of this parish, daughter to Mr. Fryth of Thornes.

[These (from the great care taken of them) remain yet fresh and handsome, and are an ornament to the church and pulpit.]

A small silver salver was given for the service of the communion by Mrs. Elizabeth Fryth, wife of Rowland Fryth, lord of this manor.

The dial in the church-yard was given and set up at the only charge of the said Rowland Fryth, esq.

[Notice is taken, that the last table was set up in 1711, by John Collins, and Thomas Dickinson, gentlemen, churchwardens.]

Mr. Robert Greifbrooke, of Shenstone, left 30s. to a schoolmaster at Shenstone, for the schooling of four poor children of Shenstone, to be issuing out in the same village, given by will to his nephew Greifbrook Cramp, to be paid yearly for ever. This was set up by Thomas Barfoot, and J. Jackson.

John Sylvester, of Overstonhall in this parish, bachelor, departed this life July 1, 1726. He gave ten shillings for ever to the poor widows in the township of Over Stonhall; and left one acre of land lying in the Hill field-piece on the West side, under the hedge of Mr. Thomas Dickinson, in the year 1727. This memorial was set up by Thomas Barfoot, and John Jackson, gentlemen.

William Smyth, citizen and barber-surgeon of London, did by will, dated August 12, Anno Dom. 1720; give, devise, and bequeath, unto the minister of the parish of Over Stonhall for the time being, and his successors for ever, the annual sum of five pounds, to be issuing and payable out of that part of his estate before devised to his nephew John Smyth, which he purchased of Mr. Turner, clear of all charges and deductions whatsoever, upon this special trust and confidence, that he the said minister for the time being, and his successors for ever, shall yearly,

D

with

with the said sum of five pounds, place and put out to apprentice one poor boy, son of some poor inhabitant of the town or village of Over Stonhall afore said, adding, that his will and mind is, that the said poor boy be put apprentice to a barber from time to time, if he shall be thought thereto qualified by the said minister for the time being; but, if it shall happen that there shall not be found one poor boy of the said town or village, yearly to be placed out, then he wills that the said annual sum shall be laid up by the said minister for the time being; and if in three years a boy be found, that then the money so laid up shall go toward the advancement of the said boy, and so from time to time as often as it shall happen that such poor boy cannot be found out yearly to be put out apprentice. This table was set up 1751, by John Crump, and Rowland Hodgkin, churchwardens.

[The last donation hath been of the greatest use, many tradesmen not only in the said hamlet and parish of Shenstone having received it when set out apprentices, but others that are well settled in other places, though we must indeed observe from the liberty allowed of the boys "being thought qualified for barbers by the minister," they have been placed out to better trades. Such have been ready for the money for many years, so that none could be stored up by the trustee, at the same time no deduction or charge hath been made to the lessening the said sum of five pounds that we know of.]

In the aisle on the North side is a stone monument of a pyramidal form against the wall, but it is by no means curious: on it this writing:

Here lyeth the bodys of Alexander Adcock, and Jane his wife. He departed this life June 7, 1721, aged 71. She died September 9, 1729, aged 78. William, their son, departed this life February 21, 1731, aged 55. These are of a family settled at Nether Stonhall long time.

For the benefit of the English reader here is given a free translation of the Latin monument of William Grace and Joan his wife.

For ever. Amen.

Here lie the remains of William Grace, Master of Arts, formerly vicar of this church, according to the English Establishment.

Near him lies Joanna, or Joan, Kole, wife of the aforesaid William Grace. She departed this life in the year of Christ's nativity 1668, aged about 52.

He survived to the age of about ninety or more, and at length departed * with a full trust in Christ, on the 7th of the ides of November, in the year of the Christian æra 1699.

Job Grace, treasurer of the cathedral church at Lichfield, and son of the said William and Joanna, dedicated and set up this sepulchral memorial and inscription to his parents.

Matters worthy notice, or that have any thing particular relating to them, in the church-yard, are,

A neat monument of azure coloured stone, of a very fine grain, and well polished, standing upon a foundation of white ones; at the four corners are pillars of white stone, neatly cut and polished.

This is placed over the body of a gentleman of 25 years old, son of Richard and Mary Burgefs, of Quarndon in the county of Leicester, who put an end to his own life at the Welch harp in Upper Stonhall, whither he came as a traveller in the stage coach.

On a grave-stone :

Here lies the body of John Shenstone. He died August 14, 1727, aged 73.

And these lines :

Weep not for me, I am at rest,
To dwell with Christ is ever best;
Your loss in me is Christ his gain,
There we shall ever with him remain;
Then strive to gain the glorious crown,
Till here by me you do lye down.

Two stone tombs stand near each other in the center of the church-yard, on the South side of the church, with the following inscription:

Alexander Ward, his corps here doth lie,
A person of renown'd integrity;

* Was buried on the 10th of November.

D 2

Who

Who at Freefort did live, and died there,
 Jehovah his creatour hee did feare;
 The tenth of December buried was he,
 And in the year of our Lord sixty-three.
 By one dear wife children nineteen had hee,
 A wonder's wonder this seem doth to me:
 At Leichfield city hee had bailiff thrice hee was,
 Which office none so oft did there through pass;
 A friend to the needy, a succour to the poor,
 An image of unparrel virtue shure,
 Not of the world, but himself a victour hee,
 Thus greater then Alexander the Great could bee.

Ætatis suæ 75.

On this are several escutcheons cut in the stone, but no arms are found.

Henry Ward intomb'd alsoe is here,
 A kinsman to the other was he most neare,
 The eighteenth of November buried was
 In the year sixty-one he did not pass,
 Together liv'd they, death did them secrete,
 The thread of life soe wilt thou separate.
 Death seizeth all when time expired is,
 Youth, age, and strength, it none of these doth mis.
 Theis brothers are therein, which all be nuff,
 The graves, our long home, shall be in the dust
 Though dead they are, of them who more can say,
 In person dead their fames will not decay.
 What though their roots be gone, their buds remain;
 The trees being dead, their fruit doth spring again.

Ætatis illius 70.

The letters are all capitals, and so defaced as to be hardly legible.

On

On a flat stone :

In memory of Edward Lake, (ge)nt.
who departed this life February,
(æra) Christianæ 1701, (æta)tis suæ 83.

The inclosed letters are worn out.

Upon a stone to the memory of Robert Collins, and Margaret his wife.

Remember me
When this you see ;
As I am, so must you be,
Therefore prepare to follow me.

Four lines more are entirely gone.

Upon a grave-stone over the corpse of Sarah Ingram, who died in 1751, aged 81.

A loving wife, a tender parent, a good neighbour, ready to do good to all in her power.

The monument of William Smyth, surgeon and barber, remains in ruins, as it hath done many years, to the reproach of the inhabitants of Upper Stonhall, who have a claim to his charity, and to those who have received of his bounty and are in good circumstances.

In the church-yard wall remains a stone hollowed out in the Romish times for the reception of holy water, found a few years since when the church was repaired ; it stood near the North door, against the wall on the left hand. Over it stood the figure of a lamb cut in stone, with other ornaments, and there yet is a carving much like the half of a wheel in stone.

Churchwardens were unquestionably of very ancient institution ; but we cannot positively fix the time, though we may the date, of the overseers of the poor. Before the dissolution of the monasteries, all the poor were maintained by those religious houses ;

houses; but after king Henry VIII. had demolished them, the poor became not only distressed in themselves, but also a public grievance; on which an act of parliament passed in the 4th of Elizabeth for their relief, and appointing overseers for that end.

The dedication of churches in memory of some saint is taken notice of by St. Augustine, who says, "The nations erected temples to their Gods; we erect them to our martyrs, but not as unto Gods, but memorials as unto dead men, whose spirits are still living with God." And again, "To them," speaking of angels and saints, "we appoint no churches, because they are not to us as Gods." Whence it is manifest, that they are consecrated or dedicated to God only, though it was in memory of some particular saint, either because by the ministry of the saints it pleased God to shew some rare effect of his power; or else in regard of death, which those saints having suffered for the testimony of Jesus Christ, did thereby make the places where they died venerable; and again, because good and virtuous men were desirous of giving such occasion of mentioning them often, to the end that the naming of their persons might cause enquiry to be made about them and their good lives, and give occasion for meditating upon their virtues.

In the time of king Edward I. a decree was made by Robert de Winchelsea, archbishop of Canterbury, in his metropolitical visitation, and confirmed by Walter Reynolds, his successor in that see, that the parishioners throughout all the archdeaconries of his province should take care that the image of that saint, to whose memory the church was dedicated, be always erected in the chancel of each parish church; but these were pulled down in the reign of king Edward VI. or queen Elizabeth.

It is customary to go a processioning, or bannering, as the people term it, once only in about seven years in this parish, on
account

account of the expence, or at the change of the lord of the manor, or the coming in of a new vicar; the nature of which custom, and whence it hath its rise, may please the reader.

At the time of the Reformation, when processions, which made part of the solemnity in the Gang week, were abolished by reason of the abuse of them, yet for retaining the perambulation of the circuits of parishes, it was enjoined in the reign of queen Elizabeth, that the people should once a year at the usual time, with the minister and substantial men of the parish, walk round the parish as was customary, and at their return to church make the common prayers, provided that the minister at convenient places shall admonish the people to give thanks to God for the increase and abundance of the fruits of the earth, repeating the 103d psalm. At which time the minister shall inculcate this and such like sentences, "Curst be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark." No such prayers have, indeed, since been appointed; but there is a homily divided into four parts, the three first parts to be used on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and the fourth on the day when the parishioners make their procession.

One author says the service formerly appointed in the Rogation day of procession was the 103d and 104th psalms, with the Litany, and Suffrages, and the Homily of Thanksgiving*, (7 Eliz.) the two psalms were to be said at convenient places in the common perambulation; the people thus giving thanks to God in the beholding of God's benefits; the increase and abundance of his fruits upon the earth; at their return to church they were to say the rest of the service mentioned and enjoined.

Gang week is what we call Rogation † week. The word Gang is Saxon, signifying a walking or going about, and was par-

* Bishop Sparrow's Rationale of the Common Prayer, p. 118.

† From the Gospel now used, which teaches us how to ask of God so as we may obtain.

ticularly

ticularly applied to this week, from the custom observed of walking the bounds of a parish. The Brownists (sectaries of note in Charles I.) make it the 23d article of their charge against the Church of England, terming it expressly "The Gang week, and praying over the corn and grafs;" a charge that is sufficiently invalidated by what is above said.

It may not be amiss to say something of the Feast of Dedication, commonly called the Wake, kept the first Sunday after St. John the Baptist's day.

That such festivals were very ancient, we have the evidence of the Scripture*; and St. Augustin says, the Jews usually celebrated the day when their temple was consecrated. That they were originally kept annually on the same saint's day, unto whose memory the church was dedicated, no doubt can be made: which duty so performed by Christians was by St. Basil termed a worship of God, and a reverence to the martyrs; neither can we do less than suppose, that the pious and devout munificence of the founder and endower of the church was likewise then gratefully remembered, as a particular service was used in that solemnity. From the people assembling in the church, and with praises to God watching all night there, in imitation of the shepherds watching over their flocks by night, came the name of a *wake* or *waking*. A legendary manuscript of St. John the Baptist records, "that the people came to the church with candles burning, and would wake; and come with light towards night to the church in their devotions; afterward they fell to songs and dancing, harping, piping, also to gluttony and sin; thus they turned the holyness into cursedness, on which the holy fathers ordained, that the people should leave that waking, and fast the even." This the learned Antiquary,

* John x. 22.

who gives this account, thinks to have been prohibited in the year 1362 (36 Edward III.) by Simon Islip, archbishop of Canterbury, in virtue of a decree made by pope Gregory IX.

In process of time, inconveniencies arising from the observance of the very days of keeping the festival, especially such as happened in harvest, many of them were altered, and the solemnity transferred to the next Sunday following.

We are told a fair was granted to the village of Shenstone, and that a few years ago people here remember attempts made to revive it upon the Wake Monday; but, lying so near Lichfield and other market towns, or not being supported with a becoming spirit, it met with no success. The origin of such meetings, called Fairs, was from the Wake or annual Feast for the Dedication of Churches, when traders brought goods under the very churches, and in the church-yards, on the Sunday. Thither multitudes coming from the adjacent places, and dangerous tumults arising frequently, the government laid restraints upon them, allowing such meetings only by particular charters.

We shall observe something of parishes in general, from the best authority, and then proceed to speak especially of this.

A parish is that circuit of ground in which the souls under the care of one parson or vicar do inhabit. How ancient parishes are is difficult to ascertain, for it seems to be agreed on all hands, that, in the early ages of Christianity in this island, they were unknown, or at least signified what a diocese now does. No particular church had the dues, but every man was at liberty to give his tithes to whatever priest or church he pleased, provided he did it to some; or they were paid to the bishop.

Camden says, England was divided into parishes by archbishop Honorius, * about the year 630. Sir Henry Spelman affirms they

* The fifth who sat in the chair of Canterbury.

were erected by the Lateran council in 1179. A very ingenious writer says they are both mistaken; for we find them, and even mother churches, in being in 970, mentioned in the laws of king Edgar, which appointed, that all tenths should be given to the principal church to which the parish appertained*. This proves that the kingdom was then divided into parishes; which division probably happened not all at once, but by degrees; for it seems pretty clear and certain, that the boundaries of them were originally ascertained by those of a manor or manors, since it very seldom happens that a manor extends itself over more parishes than one, though there are often many manors in one parish, as is the case in this of Shenstone.

The lords, as Christianity spread itself, began to build churches on their own demesnes, or wastes, to accommodate their tenants in one or two adjoining lordships; and, in order to have divine service regularly performed therein, obliged all their tenants to appropriate their tythes to the maintenance of the officiating minister, instead of leaving them at liberty to distribute them among the clergy of the diocese in general: and this tract of land, the tythes whereof were so appropriated, formed a distinct parish, which will sufficiently account for the frequent intermixture of parishes one with another; for if a lord had a parcel of land detached from the main of his estate, but not sufficient to form a parish of itself, it was natural for him to endow his newly erected church with the tythes of those disjointed lands, especially if no church was then built in any lordship adjoining to those outlying parcels. Some lands, either because they were in the hands of irreligious owners, or such as were careless, or were situate in forests, or desert places, or

* Ut dentur omnes decimæ primariae ecclesiæ ad quam parochia pertinet.

for other unfearchable reasons, were never united to any parish, and therefore continue extra-parochial, and their tithes by custom immemorial payable to the king, in trust that he will distribute them for the good of the church; yet extra-parochial wastes and marsh lands, when improved and drained, are to be assessed to all parochial rates in the next adjoining parish.

In the Northern parts were neither churches nor fonts; and therefore Paulinus, who first converted those people to the Christian faith, baptized them in the river Swale, about the year of our Lord 627. Yet in England parishes were appointed by Honorius afore said in the year 636, or, as we noted, in 630, for in this eminent Antiquaries do not agree, "that he might assign to every priest the particular flock on which he should have the charge*." In the primitive times of the English-Saxon church (saith Selden †), viz. about the year 684, the bishop and the whole clergy of the diocese were as one body, living upon their endowments bestowed on the bishoprick, and their treasure that came from the fundry places of devotion, whither some one or other of them, at the bishop's appointment, was sent to preach the word, and administer the sacraments, every clerk having his dividend for his maintenance. Cuthbert, the eleventh archbishop of Canterbury, about the year 752, obtained of the pope, that the bodies of the dead should be buried in church-yards within the cities; whereas, before, the custom was to carry them out of the walls to be interred. In a synod at London, anno 1102, held by Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, it was ordained, that the tenths should be paid to the churches, a proof that they were given at liberty; and even in the year 1200 the laity paid tythes to what church they chose.

* Ut singulis ministris singulos greges quos curarent posset attribueret.

† Hist. of Tythes, p. 254.

Shenstone village, adjoining to the church hill, has something in its appearance very pleasing. The houses in general look neat; many of them have little courts or gardens in front, which adds to their rural appearance, and are in number about thirty-five, in which reckoning we do not include the seats of those gentlemen who live at a distance from the village, though called properly in its hamlet. The soil is a mixture of earth, inclining to a red cast, and sand; hence it is generally dry, even soon after great rains. The situation is accounted very healthy, and the air fine, but rather sharp enough for very infirm constitutions, or those that labour either under consumptive complaints or asthmas. As a proof of the wholesome situation, were lately two schools for the instruction of young ladies, which flourished greatly, not more on this account than for the polite education of many gentlewomen now at the head of very good families. The Reverend Mr. Crispe had also a large school of gentlemen; but, there being no endowment for the future support of it, it ceased with him. A charity school was erected here by a voluntary contribution, under the direction of the late Mr. Barfoot; and a number of trustees accepted the care of it, all of which are deceased except Joseph Parker, gent. of Lichfield; the small maintenance allowed to the master, and the great age of the present director, are no small hindrances to its being useful; the house and school-room are fit for the purpose, and are in good condition.

SHEN-

SHENSTONE HALL.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile from the church stands a good house, named Shenstone Hall, or the Old Hall, though modern-built, from its being heretofore the seat of an antient family, and built in the manner of those times, half of timber, and the other part plaistered walls. It stood somewhat lower than the present habitation, on the site where the stables are, and nearly fronting it, and was erected by the Rugeleys. The house we now see makes a good appearance, is of brick, edged with stone of the same kind with that of the quarries aforesaid, with a large porch of the same materials in the fore part, and a handsome court, and round it a high stone wall, adjoining to the great road leading to Lichfield; also two good gardens walled round, and a third for the use of the kitchen. In the best of them lying to the road is a noble terras, exceedingly well shaded with much-admired elms or sycamores of large growth. Close to this, on the other side of the garden-wall, was a rookery; but this was destroyed by the present possessor, as being a nuisance, not only to himself, but to the farmers in the neighbourhood. Near this mansion are a malt-house, excellent stables, a large barn, with other conveniences, and canals for fish. The barn and stables were additions made by the late Samuel Hill, esq. and Thomas Hill, of Terne, esq. and yet the building of the said mansion very much injured the declining fortune of the gentleman who owned it.

The first family that we know certainly to have possessed this seat was that of the *Rugeleys*, of whom very old records speak.

Geoffrey

Geoffrey and Henry de Rugele granted lands to Robert de Wolfeley, to which Richard de Hintz was an evidence. This deed is without date, and probably as early as king Henry III. in which reign we find Richard de Hintz named as a gentleman on a special jury, with Richard de Thickbroom, William de Strethay, and others. In 4 Henry III. Robert de Rugeley was witness to the charter of Nesta de Cokefield (relict of Thomas de Burgh), giving lands (Actonshoe wood) near to Kersey monastery in Suffolk. In the same reign the principal seat of the family was Hawkseyard in Staffordshire, where then resided Humphrey Rugele, whose son and heir was Thomas, whose heir was William, who was obliged to fly out of the kingdom for killing Robert de Bykeland; but, 26 Edward I, having done some great and faithful service to the English army in Flanders, he received a pardon for that crime. Under this prince, and king Edward II. — Rugeley, esq. was seated at Longdon near Lichfield. Francis sold his estate there, and a seat named Chesthall, with the demesne land belonging to it, to — Hufsey *, of Albrighton; but in the reign of Edward IV. it was re-purchased from Thomas Ridley, esq. by — Rugeley, esq. of the former family, who bore the same arms, and had to wife — daughter of Sir John de Freeford, knight, or rather Trefford †, of whom we have this record, that his daughter and heir married into the family of Rugeley, who had a seat at Trefford, and had the prebend of Trefford, and some other advantages

* Hufsey sold the estate to — Barlow of Derbyshire, who passed it to Laurence Wright. From 7 to 44 Edward III. it was held by Simon Ridley, who had Richard, father of Thomas.

One author says, it was in the reign of Henry VI. that Hufsey purchased the estate; if so, it was, as we observe, sold twice.

† William Trefford, of Swithamley (1673) in Staffordshire, married Clare, daughter of Sir Edward Longueville, of Woollerton in Bucks, baronet.

with

with her. This branch bore Trefford's arms, and were in being in the reign of king George I. These Treffords bore two coats, one was Argent, a cross engrailed Sable; the other a griffin segreant, Gules. In the reign of Henry VI. we find the family settled in Longdon; and about the end of Henry VII. Humphrey Rugeley, of Longdon, gave Eleanor his daughter in marriage to Richard Broughton, of the same place, esq. by whom she had issue Edward, living 1583, then aged 40, also four daughters, Frances, Catherine, Matilda, and Elizabeth. The said Humphry married another daughter, Elizabeth Rugeley, to Nicholas Bagshaw*, esq. son of Nicholas Bagshaw, of Abeney, Derbyshire, who had by her six sons, of which Nicholas, the eldest, of Abeney and Farwel, near Longdon, in right of his wife, married Joan, daughter of Robert Linacre, esq. and had two daughters, Elizabeth aged 7, (1583) and Nazareth, wife of Thomas Harcourt, esq. of Burrough-hall†, descended of the Ranton Harcourts. 10, 13, and 14 Edward III. Simon de Rugeley, being high-sheriff of Salop and Staffordshire, had the castle of Shrewsbury committed to his custody, bearing then the title of *Valettus Regis*, which shews he was the king's attendant in an honourable condition. One of his daughters married to ——— Agar, esq. whose family was seated at Foston near Sudbury, Derbyshire. Richardus de Ruggele is mentioned as a person of figure, that had a right to bear a coat of arms, in the reign of Richard II. and Henry IV. and has the title of an esquire. 14 Henry IV. Hugh de Ruggeley was one of the founders of a chantry or chapel at Knoll in Warwickshire. Nicholas de Ruggeley was a person of note in the reign of Richard II. and 2 Henry IV, at which time he resided at Hausfeyard, and had a

* William Bagshaw of Farwell, at a Visitation of the Heralds at arms, 1583, was allowed to be a gentleman, and to have a right to a coat of arms.

† In Gnosall, Staffordshire.

grant of the rangership of Sutton Coldfield chace. He continued in this office till the 10th or 11th of Henry VI*; when, growing old, he became unfit for that employment, but was afterwards recorded among the knights and esquires of Warwickshire, who themselves swore, and were commissioned to take the oaths of all others in their several counties, to promote the peace of the nation, 12 Henry VI, and oblige all to observe the articles concluded in parliament between the two royal houses. We find him also employed in discovering such persons as were disaffected to the Lancastrian interest, and favoured the York title to the Crown. This same gentleman, and Edith his wife †, 8 Henry V, bought of Hugh Stanley, and Joyce his wife, a third part of the manors of Bordesley and Heybarne in Warwickshire, on the death of Hugh lord Burnel, which were the estates of Joyce his wife, daughter of Thomas son of John lord Botetourt. Nicholas de Rugeley also (10 Henry V.) purchased the manor of Dunton in Warwickshire of Sir Richard Stanhope, of Rampton in Nottinghamshire, knight, for his hunting-seat, of which sport he was exceedingly fond. He died before Editha his wife, who surviving left a legacy at her death in the reign of Henry VI. to an anchorite at Stirvichal chapel in Warwickshire. By this Editha he left issue, 1, Simon of Hawkfyrd, or Hawkley, who married Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir John Draycot, knight, descended of Sir Philip, brother to William de Malbanc, first baron of Nantwich; 2, Nicholas; 3, William, living 20th Edward IV.; 4, Thomas, whose daughter and heir, Editha, was married to Ralph Thickness, esq. a gentleman of good family, seated at Sutton Cheney and Balterley in Stafford-

* Nicolas, 8 Henry VI. was high sheriff of Warwickshire, and son of Thomas Rugeley, temp. Hen. IV.

† Daughter and heir of ——— Waldeive, esq.

shire); also a daughter Jocosa or Joyce, married to Hugh Harman *, of Moorhall, near Sutton Coldfield, and secondly to Simon Montfort of Kingshurst, Warwickshire esq. (temp. Hen. VIII.) of the great family long settled at Colehill. Nicholas living 33 Henry VI. had a son William, who by Jane daughter of — Maffey, esq. had James of Warwick, 14 Henry VII. John, second son of this Nicholas, married Joyce † daughter of Ralph Sheldon of Beoley, Worcestershire, esq.; and had by her Ralph, who took to wife Rebecca daughter of Rowland Rugeley of Shenstone, esq. whose son and heir, Sir Rowland, of Shenstone and Dunton, dying 1629, left William, by Elizabeth daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Knolles, knight. William, being a known loyalist in king Charles the First's troubles, became very obnoxious to the prevailing party, and was obliged to compound for his estate at the sum of thirty-three pounds three shillings and four-pence.

Rowland Rugeley the elder, as above, married Ellen daughter and sole heir of John Thirkell, of Smallwood, Staffordshire, esq. by Jane daughter and coheir of Sir Lewis Bagot, knight, of Bagot's Bromley, by Emma Kniveton, the first of his five wives, with whom he possessed the manor of Smallwood, but resided at Shenstone. This Rowland and Ellen Thirkill had issue, 1, William, living 1583; 2, Thomas, who married a daughter of — Pegge, of Tettenhall, Staffordshire; 3, George; 4, James, who married Margery daughter of — Clarke, esq. and two daughters, Joan wife of Thomas Rowley of Heykeley; and Rebecca wife of Ralph Rugeley, of Dunton. William suc-

* In the 19th of Henry VIII. 1523, Hugh Harman, or Vesey, son of William and Joan Harman, of Sutton Coldfield, brother and heir to the bishop of Exeter, by Joyce de Rugeley, had four daughters, Joan, Eleanor, Margaret, and Dorothy.

† She survived, and re-married to Thomas Baskerville of Curdworth.

ceeded, and lived at Shenston hall; by Elizabeth his wife daughter of John Knutsford * of Malvern, Worcestershire, esq. had issue, 1, Richard, aged 19 in the year 1583; 2, Rowland; 3, Thirkel; 4, Henry; also five daughters, Ellen, Jane, Anne, Margaret, and Penelope. On the 7th of December, 22 Charles I. Thomas Rugeley, esq. of Shenston, witnessed a deed conveying lands of Roger Adams of Footherley to James Fletcher of the same village; and in 1649 evidenced the conveyance of a tenement passed by the said Roger Adams to J. Collier, and in 1648 to lands which Roger assigned to Robert Adams, his son, at Footherley; also, the same year, of lands passed over by Roger Adams to Alexander Warde of Shenstone, or Wood-end.

In 1581, April 23, was buried at Shenstone Mr. Rugeley, and in September that year Elizabeth Rudgeley. In 1590 Rowland Rudgeley had a son Thomas baptized January 8, and a daughter Elizabeth in April, 1591. George Rugely of Shenstone, gent. was buried there the 29th of April, 1598. William Rugeley, esq. was buried the 14th of June, 1602.

In the 16th of Henry VI. May 24, John Rugeley was made Ranger of Sutton Coldfield chace by grant, on which I conjecture he acted in that capacity for Nicolas, who was far advanced in years, and then succeeded him 16 Henry VI. This John's seat was at Wiggington, Warwickshire, and his wife was Margery only daughter of John Holt, esq. of Birmingham Aston. In the reign of Henry VII. Laurence Thickness, esq. of Batterley, married — Rugeley's daughter, and had Ralph and Robert, seated

* John Knutsford, of Malvern-house, Warwickshire, serjeant at arms about the reign of queen Mary, or queen Elizabeth, married Joan eldest of the five daughters and heirs to Richard Knightly, of Upton in Northamptonshire, esq.; coheirs also to Sir Edmund Knightly, knight, who died in the 34th year of Henry VIII. possessed of the manor of Southam, Warwickshire.

at Beaumaris, Anglesey, which Ralph was father of Robert, who resided at Whittingdon, Staffordshire, and of Ralph, of whom the family at Batterley descended for many generations.

John Ruggely, abbot of Mereval, Warwickshire, was the chief instrument of founding the gild at Manceter, 37 Hen. VI. for poor people of Atherston and Manceter*.

In the 14th of Edward IV. Thomas Riggeley witnessed a deed conveying lands at Horecros, Staffordshire. In the reign of James I. Mary daughter of John Rugeley of Coventry, and of Dunton, was married to George Barbour, esq. of Tamworth, or some seat near it, who had issue by her the noted Leicester Barbour †, an active officer of the Parliament in the the troublesome times of King Charles I. also one of the committee at Stafford.

In the reign of Henry VII. or Henry VIII. Humphry Rugeley of Rudgley, Staffordshire, whence most likely the family came, married Maud, daughter of Richard Grosvenor, esq. son of Sir Robert by Catherine daughter and coheir of Richard Coton of Hampfall Ridware, but she died without issue October 8, 3 Hen. VIII. William Rugeley, esq. (whom I take to be the son of John, ranger of Sutton chace in the reign of Henry VI.) page of the royal wardrobe, and page of the chamber, had by letters patent, dated at Westminster, the office of keeper of the chace at Hillwood, or Sutton Parva, with the same fees and privileges as any of his predecessors in that office; and 16 Henry VIII. Sept. 21, had the office of keeper of the woods and beasts of the outwoods called Lyndridge, in the county of Warwick. One of the family seated at Smallwood, named William, was allowed to be a gen-

* See Mr. Bartlett's History of Manceter, p. 101.

† Whose family was raised by their service and attendance upon Robert Dudley earl of Leicester (of whose title comes his name), and after of his countess. This Leicester, or a son of his, was living in 1673, at Tamworth.

tleman by the heralds at arms in their visitation, 1583, 25 Elizabeth, and to have good right to bear a coat; as was Thomas Rugeley of Hawkfyard.

In 1623 Richard Rugeley, of Hawkfyard, was a benefactor to the poor of Shenstone. Of this line was colonel Simon Rugeley, a brave officer of the Parliamentarians against king Charles I. in the the civil commotions. He, Lieutenant-colonel Chadwick, Mr. Crompton, Mr. Broughton, Captain Henry Stone of Walfall, Mr. Gregge, Mr. Pudsey of Seifdon, William Bendy of King's Swynford, and Mr. Foxhall, formed the committee at Stafford. These signed a warrant, December 22, 1643, to demolish that castle. Colonel Simon, being an enterprizing man, was sent the same month to command the horse at New-castle, with a further commission to raise men for its defence and the security of Leek, or to assist Sir William Brereton in Cheshire. To pay his foot, were assigned the weekly contributions of the inhabitants of Forebridge, Tixhall, Ingestre, Loxton, Colton, Marston, Whitgreave, Chebfey, and Cold Norton. To pay his horse and troopers, were appointed the inhabitants of Pype, Maviston Ridware, Hamstall Ridware, Yoxhall, Newbury, Horecros, Marchington cum membris, Rolleston, Tatenhill, Dunstall, Bramston, Barton under Needwood, Whichmore, Hansacre, Armitage, Bromley Regis, and Ansley. The money also collected of Sir Edward Littleton, and his tenants, was ordered to his disposal, 1644. In April that year he relieved Tonge castle in Shropshire, and took Eccleshall in Staffordshire, after a straight siege of seven weeks; under him served a noted captain of the same name.

On a second subsidy given to queen Elizabeth by the laity in parliament in her 18th year, Rowland Rugeley, esq. named of Dunstall, Tatenhill, and Collingwood, gave for his lands in Offlow hundred

dred 20l. finding besides one lance, and one horseman. Thomas Rugeley, in 1583, had a son named Thomas, who, or his heir, left Hawkley, or Hawkesyard, and other lands, to two daughters coheirs, one of whom was married to Richard Rudgeley, esq. of Callingwood, who had Richard, to whom came Hawkesyard on the division. His son and heir Simon first mortgaged, and after sold this manor, to Sir Richard de Skeffington, baronet, (father of John, the first viscount Massareen of the kingdom of Ireland of the name, in the reign of Charles I; which Sir Richard was the second son of Sir William the first baronet. It remained with John lord Massareen his son, who sold it to Michael Biddle, gent. The other daughter and coheir of Thomas Rugley married meanly to John Aspinall, a taylor, and had both sons and daughters, of which the eldest, Elizabeth, was wife of John Casee, or Cofac, a gentleman of Leicestershire, whose seat was afterwards at Callow-hill in Staffordshire, an estate of his wife's. Aspinall's wife, surviving her husband, disinherited all her numerous sons, and settled all her lands upon Elizabeth Casee, her daughter, whose husband had a pretty estate of his own in Leicestershire, and bore the character of a most industrious man, wary in buying and selling, of no visible splendour, and yet his circumstances altered in such a manner, that he was obliged to sell not only his own land, but his wife's, and was then left to end his days upon a small stipend of 40l. per annum, to support himself, a wife, and three or four children.

Having given the best account we possibly could collect of this considerable family, and with the utmost exactness, notwithstanding their genealogy through the several branches, and their residing at different mansions, somewhat perplexed us; we shall only add here, that that the Rugeleys of the Shenstone line possessed the manors of Hawkesyard and Callingwood in Staffordshire, Knightthorp

thorp in Leicestershire, 20 messuages, and 1340 acres in Fradley, King's Bromley, Hanfacre, Rudgeley, and Armitage; they had also good estates in Brereton, Hoxton, Newton, Hamerton, Richardscot, Norton, Haseler, Kingston, Callow-hill, Strethey, Shenstone, Stubby Lane, Marchington, Uttoxeter, Woodlands, Alrewys, Draycot, and Longdon; but so various are the changes of families, that little or nothing is now left in the name or blood.

The arms of the *Rugeleys* were, Argent, a chevron between three roses, Gules, seeded, Or; quartering 2 horses' heads erased, Sable.

Arms of *Thickness* of Batterley; Argent a scythe Azure, a chevron, Sable, fretted Or.

Arms of *Tbirkel* of Smallwood; Argent, a maunch, Gules.

Arms of *Bagot*; Argent, a chevron Gules between three martlets Sable.

Arms of *Knutsford*; Sable, a cross engrailed Argent.

The second family that we observed to be settled at Shenstone Old Hall, is that of the *Brandreths*, seated here, by what we can collect, soon after the death of Charles I. at farthest some time under the administration of the protector Oliver Cromwell. *Brandred*, or *Brandreth*, which unquestionably gave name to this family, is a manor within the parish of Acrise, in the county of Kent, belonging to St. Radegund's abbey, till king Henry gave it to the archbishop of Canterbury. Robert Brandrith, in the latter end of the reign of king Henry VI., or early in that of Edward IV. married one of the daughters and coheirs of John Baker, esq. gentleman-porter of the famous city of Calais in France, in the reigns of Henry V. and Henry VI. With her, besides other estates, he had the manor of Calddham in Kent, which

which he or his son John sold to Sir Thomas Brown, knight. I Edward VI. John Brandreth bought a manor called Moryn Hall. His son and heir was Christopher (40 Eliz.) whose son Thomas was possessed of Moryn Hall, in the parish of Carcolston in the county of Nottingham, by gift of his father. After some time, he passed it to Roger Brandreth his brother; who sold it in the reign of James I. to Robert Thoroton, esq. ancestor to the great Antiquary Mr. Thoroton, author of the "Antiquities of Nottinghamshire." John Brandeth, esq. whom I take to be brother to Christopher, and second son of John who bought Moryn Hall, lived near Shenstone at Weeford Hall, which he either purchased or rented of ——— Digby, esq. of Mansfield Woodhouse in Nottinghamshire, who owned several estates in Weeford and Thickbroome in Staffordshire, if not those manors. Either this gentleman, or John his son of Weeford, two miles from Shenstone, in the reign of James I. was one of the persons appointed by a commission of the lord chancellor under the great seal of England, to examine and settle the extents and bounds of the adjoining parishes. Before these commissioners came among others a woman from the hamlet of Blackbrook, who was to testify as to the limits, and some other particular circumstances. She affirmed, of her own knowledge, that about the reign of Henry VIII. or very soon after, John Vesey, then bishop of Exeter, a man of public spirit, and born close by at Sutton Coldfield, resolving with himself to become a benefactor to that place and the parts adjacent, procured for Sutton not only a mercate and fairs, but got it incorporated by the name of a warden and fellowship; building also a great number of houses upon the large wastes of that parish, with intention to set up the manufacture of kerfies, as was practised in Devon, where his bishoprick lay. Farther, she added, that during these transactions the

the bishop was frequently at Sutton and thereabouts, and finding the roads much annoyed with rolling pebbles, which often occasioned travellers' horses to stumble, and sometimes to fall, among other works of charity, he hired poor people to gather them out of the ways and lay them on heaps; hence they were called *The bishop's stones*. On the hollow way between Weeford Hills, or rather between Swynfen and Canwell, lie divers heaps, and one great one at the top of the hill at Weeford park corner, which, according to the tradition of the country people, were placed there in memory of a bishop of Lichfield, who, riding with many attendants, was slain, with those servants, by robbers; and that these heaps were laid where the bodies were found, which, agreeable to this account, and to honest and accurate antiquaries, is entirely fabulous.

John Brandreth of Weeford Hall had a son Richard, and, as I suppose, Henry, who made a considerable figure in the troubles under Charles the First, and, in the year 1659 was one of the members of the committee of state, or of safety, appointed by the army under Fleetwood and Lambert, thirteen days after they had dispersed the Rump parliament, viz. on the 26th of October, to whom the government was committed. The particular commission of this Henry Brandreth *, and his twenty associates, was to execute all the powers invested in the council of state; to punish all delinquents concerned in the late conspiracy with Sir George Booth and his friends; to give indemnity to all who had acted for the Commonwealth since the year 1649; to oppose and suppress all insurrections, to dispose of all places of trust that were void; to remove such as were scan-

* Ludlow's Memoirs. Dugdale's View of the Troubles.

dalous;

dalous; to treat with foreign states; to raise the militia; and, lastly, to make sale and composition for the estates of delinquents. The council of officers resolved to obey them so long as they would do what should be prescribed to them. The committee, though filled up with men of almost all parties, was so craftily composed, that the balance was sufficiently secured to those of their own faction. This committee, wanting capacity or resolution to extricate themselves out of their difficulties, and being in the utmost perplexity after the declarations to restore the Rump Parliament, by the fleet, the governor of Portsmouth, and that part of the army which deserted their interest, consented to the restoring of the parliament, which met the 26th of December, and gave up their authority. Richard, son of John Brandreth, esq. was seated at Shenstone Hall, whether as succeeding his father in it, or by purchase, or marriage, we cannot affirm. Richard had John, aged 26, 1663, March 30; Roger, and William, and as I think four daughters; Jane wife of John Noble, esq. of Farwel and Longdon, son of Michael that died in 1648-9, a busy man in the war raised against king Charles I. son of Edward, who lived in Lichfield close, son of John Noble of Farwel, gentleman. John and Jane Brandreth had a son Michael, aged 14 in 1664, at which time his father was 43 years old. In 1673 John Noble, gent. was of Charley near Longdon. About 1756 died ——— Noble, of Longdon Hall, who had two wives, but left no issue.

Of the other daughters, one was wife of ——— Degge*, esq. another of ——— Swynfen, of Swynfen, esq.; and the other, named Sarah, of William Heath, of Hammerwich Hall, father of John, who lived in Leicestershire, and by a daughter of ——— Serjeant, had Serjeant Heath of Wolverhampton, whose only

* In 1673 was Sir Simon Degge, of Callow Hill, knight.

child, Mary, was married to Mr. John Stubbs of Walsall, second son of Francis Stubbs, gent. of Huntington in Staffordshire, and hath issue.

In 1660 Elizabeth * Brandreth, widow, was buried at Shennstone July 5.

Robert Brandreth, in the reign of king Charles I. or soon after, married Elizabeth, eldest of the three daughters of Michael Biddulph, esq. by Elizabeth eldest daughter of Sir William Skeffington of Fisherwick, ancestor of the earl of Massareen in Ireland; which Elizabeth, wife of Robert Brandreth, esq. was sister of Sir Theophilus Biddulph, of Westcombe in Kent, knight, who in 1664 was created baronet.

John Brandreth and Anne his wife had a son Michael, baptized November 6, 1665; most likely after the name of his grandfather Michael Biddulph; also a son John, baptized February 13, 1667; Anne and Mary, twins, baptized August 1, 1668, and Elizabeth, upon November 12, 1669. John Brandreth, gent. was buried here December 18, 1669; and I find Anne Brandreth, widow, paying to the poll-tax in 1692 (3 William III.) two shillings for herself and a maid servant; if this was the relict of John, who was styled gentleman in the register, she must be far advanced in years. Roger Brandreth, gent. was buried November 28, 1631. In 1688, on the 27th of December, were married Mr. Robert Radford and Miss Anne Brandreth, and 1691, December 3, Mary their daughter was baptized.

* Relict of Robert, and daughter of Michael Biddulph, esq. One account says Elizabeth Biddulph was wife of Richard Brandreth, esq.

† In 1667 this John paid for his majesty's royal aid, as assessed June 11, for the houses of Mr. Walford and John Sylvester, 1l. 17s. 9d.

In 1673 William Brandrith, or Brandrick, was seated at Shenstone Hall, as appears from a list of the gentry of Staffordshire of that date, whence I suppose him to have been the eldest son of John, who died in 1669; and Anne, living in 1692, to have been William's widow. Michael, and Mary his wife, had issue Michael, baptized April 17, 1693, Anne, baptized July 17, 1694, John, baptized December 6, 1695, a child still-born, February 2, 1696, Elizabeth, an infant, born 1698, in November, and died soon after. The father died in 1705, and was buried July 29, and his relict Mary *, May 5, 1713. She was one of the daughters and coheirs of — Stanton, esq.; the other three coheirs married, one to — Degge †, of Derby, esq. of whom — Degge, of Worcester, esq. another to — Charlton of Stanton, and the fourth to — Sacheverell, of Barton in Nottinghamshire, esq., who had Harry, Philip, Elizabeth, and Anne; Elizabeth was wife of — Pole, esq. of Radburn, who had a son that died of an epilepsy in 1761.

Michael Brandreth, esq. was one of the commissioners that confirmed the assessment of the poll-tax in 1692. By the bill all persons (except such as received alms of the parish, poor housekeepers, and their children) were to pay twelve pence quarterly for one year; all tradesmen and artificers, having an estate of the clear yearly value of 300l. and upwards, ten shillings; all gentlemen, or reputed gentlemen, having an estate of 300l. or more; as also all clergymen and teachers who had any ecclesiastical benefice, or contribution, to the value of 80l. per ann. or upwards, twenty shillings; every lord of parliament, spiri-

* Who died at Lichfield, of the small-pox.

† Simon Degge, of the parish of Allhallows, Derby, and Jane Staunton, were married at Shenstone November 2, 1705. Vide register.

tual or temporal, the sum of ten pounds; and all persons who should refuse to take the oaths to their majesties, double the sums charged by the respective heads. This gentleman's fortune was upon the decline when he married: what he had with his wife helped to bear him up for some time; but having hurt himself by building, and other means, he was obliged to sell several estates, particularly in Chesterfield. On his marriage with Mary Stanton, Anne, his mother, left Shenstone Hall, and went to Wilncote near Tamworth, where was an estate and mansion belonging to her husband, deceased; on her death, at Wilncote, her body was conveyed to Shenstone, and laid near the remains of her husband. Anne, daughter of Michael by Mary Stanton, married a citizen of London, whom I have not learnt*, but have some shadow of reason to suppose she married a Mr. Degge.

John aforesaid, second son of John Brandreth, esq. and Anne his wife, married Mrs. Sparrow of Stone, and there settling, died issueless. Anne, his sister, married the Reverend Mr. Tilly, and had issue Michael Tilly, attorney at law in the city of Lichfield, who was buried at Shenstone. In 1686 mention is made of a marriage between Job Serjeant and Margaret Tilly. Mary married —— Radford, of Tamworth, clerk, and had Mary, who died under age at Tamworth. We return to Michael, eldest son of Michael and Mary Brandreth, who succeeded his father in the month of July, 1705, and was then about twelve years old. He sold, amongst other things, the tythes of Chesterfield, and part of Wall, to an attorney of Lichfield;

* I have since been informed, that the gentleman was —— Fitzgerald, esq. who had a place under the crown. She died without issue, though we are not sure that she did not marry twice; if so, —— Degge might be one of the husbands.

was in the army some time, and died abroad, being then a captain of foot, without issue. This gentleman sold Shenstone Hall, and the lands belonging to it, to the late Samuel Hill, esq. whose purchase of them was made with part of the money reserved for such purposes by the will of the Honourable and Reverend Richard Hill, his uncle, and entailed, by virtue of which entail they came into the possession of Thomas Hill, esq. of Terne.

In 1731, Lionel Cranfield Sackville, duke of Dorset, then made lord lieutenant of Ireland, appointed the Reverend John Brandreth one of his chaplains, and sent him into that kingdom before him. In 1732, upon the 18th of February, king George II. by letters under his royal sign manual to the lord lieutenant of Ireland, granted to the Reverend John Brandreth the deanery of the metropolitan church of Armagh. What other preferments he had we know not, but understand he gave this deanery up in exchange for that of Kilkenny; afterwards he was made dean of Emely in Ireland, and died there in the month of December, 1764, being then doctor of divinity, and unmarried, aged 69. His principal heir was Degge, esq. now or late of Worcester.

Lady Elizabeth Germaine (of the Berkeley family), a lady well known in the polite world, gave him this character, "that he was as worthy an honest sensible man as any she knew;" and supposes, in one of her letters, that he was recommended to dean Swift's acquaintance.

To the abovesaid account of Henry Brandreth, the committeeman, we add, that when the parliament called Praise God Barebones, 1653, framed an act out of an ordinance of the former council of state, for a lottery of the rebels lands in Ireland, in which one Methuselah Turner, a linen draper in Cheapside, and one Brandreth

Brandreth (Brandriffe*), a cloth-drawer, were named commissioners, and had already sat in Grocers Hall, with such other most incompetent judges of the affair. These were to dispose of ten counties in Ireland to the adventurers, and to the soldiers for their arrears; if these did not satisfy, the county of Louth was to be added.

Sbenstone Hall, since the family of Brandreth sold it, hath been the mansion of several gentlemen as tenants to Samuel Hill, and the family seated at Terne in Salop. These were, — Porter, John Eggington, esq. of the ancient house at Rodbaston in Staffordshire, son of James Eggington, esq. by Catherine Littleton; John Houghton, esq. after of Colehill Hall in Warwickshire, and whose relict, Mary, yet lives at Hintz Hall. She was daughter of — Lande, clerk, by — daughter of John Rawlins, esq. town-clerk of Lichfield, who had issue two sons and three daughters; one married to the Reverend Mr. Lande, as before; another to Richard Wake, gent. who died without issue, and the third to Jeremiah Hancox, brasier to his late majesty king George II. whose issue were two daughters; of which one married to — Polithiew, of London, the other to — Haye, esq. whose son is a counsel at law. The two sons of John Rawlins, esq. were John, that died a bachelor, and Michael, captain in the guards, who married Bridgett, sister of Richard Dyott, esq. of Freeford, and aunt to Richard Dyott, esq. of the same place, an ancient and reputable family. The present tenant to Noel Hill, esq. is Mr. Joseph Elde, who has with it a farm of more than three hundred pounds per annum.

* Heath's Chronicle, part III. page 352.

Having thus given the best account in our power of Shensstone Hall, and the families belonging to it, we shall only observe farther, that Humphry Rugeley married, as we noted, Maud, the seventh daughter of Richard Grosvenor, esq. by Catherine, third daughter and coheir of Richard Colton of Hamstall-Redware, who was heir to the manors of Thurcaston, Tayme, and Maplewell, in Leicestershire; Coilston and Rosington, in Derbyshire; Hamstall-Redware, Poeswood, and Ashfield in Staffordshire; Colton and Oscroft in Cheshire; whose grandfather, Sir Richard Colton, knight, married, 31 Hen. VI. Joan daughter of Richard Venables, baron of Kinderton in Cheshire, sister and co-heir of Sir Hugh Venables, slain at the battle of Bloreheath, as Sir Richard Colton himself fell at the battle of St. Albans, 33 Henry VI.

Edmund Rugeley, esq. married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Robert Walsall. esq. and had issue by her a daughter and heir, Barbara Rugeley, married, 37 Henry VIII. to Richard Lawley, of Spoonhill, esq. grandfather of Thomas, created a baronet by king Charles I. to which Richard Lawley, esq. she brought a large estate.

Brandretb's arms; Sable, 5 mascles, Or, the crest a lamb couchant.

Bydulph's arms; an eagle displayed Argent,—ditto 3 fadring irons, Sable.

Skeffington's arms; Argent, 3 bulls heads erased, Sable, horns, Or.

Stanton's arms; Argent, two chevrons with a bordure.

SHENSTONE PARK.

Shenstone Park, or Shenstone New Hall, is best known by the name of *The Park*, because king Henry VIII. had a noble park here full three miles in circuit, well stocked with deer and other game. It was afterwards continued in the same state, even in the years 1640, 1641, and 1642, for Mr. Lake's division of it was so distinguished at that time, and reported by the commissioners, who gave in to the Crown an account of the parks in the county of Stafford to be stocked with deer. 20 Henry III. was the park set out by one of the Grendons, who obtained a licence for that purpose from the superior lord of this manor, provided he made such a fence round it that his forest of Sutton Coldfield should suffer no detriment from it.

The Hall stands on a low ground, gradually declining for a mile from the eminence upon which the church is situated, but rather on rising land from the meadows around; yet it is far from a good site, without any distant view, except a tolerable good view from the church. It seems probable that there was a hunting seat here, erected by the family of the Doyleys soon after the Conquest, and no question is made of such a seat or lodge early in the reign of Henry III. In the 34th year of that king's reign, Richard de Grendon paid 100s. for a charter of free warren in his lands. The same family had it till the reign of Richard II. or Henry IV. of which we shall say somewhat more particular hereafter.

The next possessor of it seems to be one of the Nevils, who had a seat here that we are certain of, though they most likely inherited from the great and noble house of the Beauchamps,

the last of which was Henry duke of Warwick, in the reign of Henry VI. of the male line, who had any concerns here; he died June 11, 1445, 23 Henry VI, leaving only an infant daughter, who died in 1449, aged 6 years. Richard Nevil, earl of Warwick, July 23, 27 Henry VI. next had it, and forfeited it in 1471 to the crown in the reign of Edward IV.; and yet we think that George Nevil, lord Latimer of Danby, had a seat here, and the park; for I find it in the hands of Thomas, second and youngest son of the said lord, who had summons to parliament 10 Henry VI. having before purchased the lordship of Danby (and the other estates of John Nevil lord Latimer being* given him by his father on the death of the said lord John, 9 Henry VI.). Sir George Nevil lord Latimer was third son of Ralph first earl of Westmoreland, by his second wife, Joan, daughter of John of Gaunt duke of Lancaster, fourth son of king Edward III. and half sister to king Henry IV.

Thomas Nevil of Shenstone Park (2 Henry VIII.) left John of the same place living in 1584, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, who then had two sons, Fulk, aged 10 years, and Francis. In the next reign, or that of king Charles I. the house and park were in the crown, for then we are told*, that king Charles granted it to a native of Scotland, named Balmerino, who sold the park to Lake†, and Alexander Ward, an innkeeper in the city of Lichfield; at which time we conjecture there were three lodges belonging to it, one at the gate leading to Weeford and Little Hay, another towards Sutton Coldfield, and a third at Wood-end.

*James
Elphinstone
of Scotland*

* In the collection of ——— Wilkes, M. D. late of Willenhall, pen. Reverend Thomas Unett.

† Edward Lake, esq. was of Little Fenton in Staffordshire, in the reign of James I. and Charles I.

Mr. Lake and Mr. Ward of the large park aforesaid made two parks, thus distinguishing their property; the former gentleman likewise built a seat where the lodge-house stood, going towards Weeford and Little Hay.

Roger Lake, in the reign of James I. or Charles I. married Dorothy daughter of William Crompton, esq. of Stone Abbey in Staffordshire, and had by her a son Roger, father, as I suppose, of William of Shenstone park, Edward also of the same place, and of Roger; Dorothy; and Jane, married June 5, 1666, but to whom it is not said; Roger died in September 1696, and was buried September 14.

William had a daughter, Ann, baptized April 1, 1660; and, 1661, is in a deed mentioned as a creditor of Mr. Roger Adams of Fotherley; April 13, 13 Charles II. Dorothy Lake was witness to a deed conveying lands to Walter Rawlins of Little Hay.

In 1663-4, March 11, was buried at Shenstone, Lydia wife of Edward Lake, which gentleman, in 1667, paid 14s. to the quarterly assessment for his majesty's royal aid dated June 11. Dorothy their daughter was buried here June 27, 1665. Edward was living in 1692, in the reign of William III. This same person witnessed a bond of Thomas Alsop, of Little Hay, for money due to Elizabeth Parr, June 20, 1687. In 1692 paid one guinea to the poll tax, a shilling for his man. The register mentions Edward Lake, buried February 15, 1701, aged 83, which person I conclude to be the same person. He had a son Edward, termed in the assessment for the poll-tax, 1692, Edward Lake, junior, gentleman, who paid for himself one guinea, and also for his wife, for his man and maid two shillings. What became of this Edward we know not; but are assured, that Shenstone park soon after came into other hands, viz. of
Joshua

Joshua Head, esq. counsellor at law, who was heir to the family; son in law as some say, or grandson* as others, to Mr. Edward Lake, senior. Lydia, daughter of Edward Lake, died in May, 1682; Jane, another daughter, wife of Sampson Bulkly, gent. died in January 1768; also Thomas their son.

Mr. Head sold the park to John Strickson, esq. of the city of London, which gentleman's father carried on a large trade as a draper, a profession this John some time followed; his wife was Amye-Maria, daughter of ——— Sandford, a gentleman of Salop, nearly related to Sir Samuel Daniel, baronet; they had issue two sons, Thomas, who was educated in the university of Oxford, and died a bachelor; and Arthur, an entering clerk of the customs, or some such office, in the city of London, living in 1764, but about that time died in a kind of frenzy or melancholy. The father lived at Shenstone park with good reputation and much hospitality; but declining in his circumstances in the year 1723 or 1724, he sold his estate here, and something more at Upperstonhall, either to the Honourable and Reverend Richard Hill, or to the late Samuel Hill, esq. The said Mr. Strickson erected the mansion, of which to this time a good part now remains, removing the old materials from the house towards Little Hay gate, called the Lodge, to the site on which stands the present mansion; he likewise built the large seat on the right hand as we enter the church, and the vault under it for his own burial-place; but having suffered much in the South-Sea scheme, his misfortunes forced him hence; and this vault was used first for the interment of lady Elizabeth Hill, and after of her husband Samuel Hill, esq.

* Son of J. Head, of London, by his wife, a daughter of Edward Lake.

We have the following account of this family : that in the year 1726-7, January 20, Rowland Hill, esq. was created a baronet by his majesty king George I. Of this ancient family of Hull, or Hill, of Court-hill, Wlonkesflowe, Blore, Buntingfdale, Malpafs, Soulton, and Bleachley, was Hull, father of Hull or Hill, of Hill and Wlonkeslaw in Salop, esq. living in the reign of Edward I. or Edward II. married Eleanor, daughter and coheir of Hugh de Wlonkeslaw, esq. and had issue William, living in the reign of king Richard II. whose son and heir was Geoffry Hill, in the reign of Henry IV. who married daughter of — Warren, lord of Ightfield in Salop, and by her had a son, Humphry, living in the reigns of Henry V. and Henry VI. He, by Anne, daughter and heir of John Bird, of Charlton, esq. niece and heir of David de Malpafs, had three sons; 1, William, ancestor to the Hills of Court-hill, Blore, Wlonkeslaw, and Buntingfdale; 2, Ralph, of whom presently; 3, Thomas of Malpafs and Hodnet, whose issue male failed in Sir Rowland Hill, knight. We meet with Thomas Hill *, esq. lord mayor of London in 1483, who caused the conduit in Gracechurch-street to be erected at his own expence. In 1549, or 1550, Sir Rowland, mercer, was lord-mayor of that city, son of Thomas Hill of Hodnet, who bore arms, viz. two Barrs Gemelles, Gules; on a canton, Sable, three pheons, Argent, between them a chevron, and on it two estoiles, Argent.

His lady gave ten pounds towards erecting the offices at Guildhall †. This Sir Rowland, one of the richest and most considerable merchants of his time, did great acts of generosity, was an eminent benefactor to the public, founded Drayton and other free-schools, built Stoke and Hodnet churches, at which last

* Stowe's Survey of London.

† Stowe.

mentioned place he was born. His wealth increased his goodness, as well as his honour; for, being sensible from whose blessing he received his estate, he made the most grateful returns, by erecting some lasting monuments to the glory of God. He gave 600*l.* to Christ's Hospital in London; and at his death forgave all his tenants in his manors of Aldersey and Sponeley, in the county of Salop, a year's rent, and further enjoined his heirs to make them leases for twenty-one years for two years rent; moreover, he made several causeways for man and horse; four bridges, of which two of stone, Alcham and Terne, of eighteen arches each, for the safe passage of travellers and carriages, which were in those days looked upon as great instances of charity, and beneficial to mankind. He was buried in St. Mary Woolchurch, Walbrook-ward, London, with the following inscription over him:

A friend to virtue,
A lover of learning,
A foe to vice,
A vehement corrector,
A prudent person.
All truth supporting,
A citizen sage,

And worthy counsellor;
A lover of wisdom,
Of justice a furtherer:
Lo! here his corpse lyeth;
Sir Rowland Hill by name,
Of London late Lord Mayor,
And Alderman of fame.

He left his large acquisitions to his four sisters and coheirs, who were, 1, Agnes, wife of J. Cooper, esq.; 2, Joan, married to George Dormaine, esq. from whom are the families of Cholmley and Leech; 3, Jane, wife of George Greatwood, esq. from which family came the Levisons of Woolverhampton in Staffordshire, and the Corbets of Stoke, baronets; 4, Elizabeth, wife of John Barker, esq. of whom came the Leighs, barons of Stoneley in Warwickshire. We are told, in respect of the last family, that

Thomas

Thomas Leigh, son of Roger, of Wellington in Salop, descended of the Leighs, of High Leigh in Cheshire, bred up under Sir Rowland Hill, became at length, for his skill and diligence, his factor beyond sea, and underwent that trust so well, that Sir Rowland, having no child, matched his niece, whom he much affected, to him, viz. Alice, daughter of John Barker, of Hamon in Salop, upon whose issue he bestowed the greatest part of his estate. This gentleman became very opulent, and, being a knight, was lord mayor of London, 1585, 1 Eliz. Dying 14 Eliz. he left by the said Alice three sons, Rowland, Thomas, and William; the eldest of which was well provided for by Sir Rowland Hill, his godfather, in Gloucestershire, at Longborough, or thereabouts. Thomas remained at Stoneley; the third son settled at Newnham in Warwickshire; and both had ample possessions settled upon them by their father and mother, she being joint purchaser in all, and lived at Stoneley to a very great age, dying in January 1603, having seen her children's children of the fourth generation, of which Sir Thomas was created a baronet by king Charles I.

This lady, Alice Leigh, 19 queen Elizabeth, founded an hospital for ten poor persons, five men, and five women, all of them to be unmarried persons, and nominated by her; but after her decease, by Sir Thomas Leigh her son, during his life, and his heirs for ever; to whose maintenance she charged 29l. per annum. to be paid out of Milbourn Grange, situate in the same parish of Stoneley, where the hospital was built, viz. 52s. to each of the poor people at the feast of St. John Baptist, St. Michael, the Nativity of our Lord, and the Annunciation of our Lady, by even portions; six shillings and eight-pence yearly to the churchwardens for the time being, who were appointed supervisors of the said poor people, as to their orderly coming to church

church every Sunday and Holy-day, except there were urgent cause to the contrary: ten shillings yearly to the mayor of Coventry for the time being, whom she also appointed to see to the performance thereof; ten shillings yearly towards repairing the church; twenty-two shillings and eight-pence to a minister to preach four sermons there yearly; all which queen Elizabeth by her letters patent (bearing date the 28th of June in the 29th year of her reign) confirmed.

Sir Rowland Hill, knight, and Sir Thomas Leigh, knight, aldermen of London, bought Stoneley abbey, and some of its lands; of William Cavendish, esq. of Trimley St. Martyn, in the county of Suffolk; and on the division of their purchases (3 Elizabeth) Sir Thomas Leigh had Stoneley abbey.

We return now to Ralph, second son of Humphry Hill, esq. who married — daughter of Thomas Green, esq. of Norton, by whom he had two sons; 1, William, ancestor to the Hills of Souldon and Blechley; 2, Humphry, of Adderley, or Aldersey, esq. who, by Alice his wife, daughter of — Bulkley of Stanlow, had three sons, Rowland of Hawkstone; Thomas, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Dantsey, esq. of the county of Lancaster, but died issueless; and Robert, seated at Adderley, who left a son, Humphry Hill, esq.

Rowland Hill, of Hawkston, married Mary, daughter of Thomas Dycher, esq. of Muckleston in Salop, and had issue by her a Sir Rowland, who married Elizabeth, daughter of William Jolliffe, of Leek in Staffordshire, and had issue Rowland Hill, of Hawkstone, esq. a gentleman remarkable for his great wisdom, piety, and charity; he suffered much in the civil wars, on his coming to the relief of his father, whom the Parliamentarians had detained prisoner in the castle near Hawkstone; his wife was Margaret, daughter of Richard Whitehall, of Whitchurch

church in Salop, by whom he had seven sons and seven daughters, of which Rowland the eldest son died unmarried; the second son was the Honourable and Reverend Richard Hill, LL.D. who died unmarried at Richmond in Surrey, July 11, 1727, and was carried to Hodnet in Salop, and there buried. In the reign of king William III. he was envoy extraordinary to the court of Brussels; and, in the same reign, and in queen Anne's, to the courts of Turin, and all the other Italian princes, except to the Roman pontiff. In the time of king William III. he was pay-master of the army in Flanders, where, by his remarkable, punctual, and just dealings, he acquired so great credit, as to be able by it to subsist the armies there, when remittances of money came too slow from England for that purpose. This great service gained him the favour of the king his master, who soon after the peace appointed him one of the lords commissioners for executing the high office of lord high treasurer of England. His merit also recommended him to the favour of queen Anne, who, soon after her accession to the throne, appointed him one of the council to his royal highness prince George of Denmark, as lord high admiral of this kingdom; and in the year 1705 sent him to the duke of Savoy, a prince noted for his policy, with whom he so prevailed as to bring him into the grand alliance. In the reign of George I. he retired from all civil employment, and became fellow of Eton college, near Windsor, which he held to the time of his death. He was a statesman of great abilities, and of eminent integrity, a man of general knowledge, well known for an exceeding fine address; he added much to his own private estate, and fortune of itself considerable, great part of which he gave among his relations in his life-time, and the remainder at his death. He augmented many poor livings, and was a considerable benefactor to St. John's college, Cambridge, where he

was

was educated, and was an ornament to that society. He left them five rectories, Ditchingham, South and North Lopham united, the two Forncetts united, Sturstone, and Aldborough. His heirs are always to present to those benefices, but obliged to make choice of a fellow of that house. He subscribed largely to works of charity, and did a great many private ones in a wise and well chosen manner. Not long before his decease, by the favour of king George I. in the 13th year of his reign, he obtained for his family this creation to the dignity of a baronet of this kingdom in the person of his nephew and heir at law, Rowland Hill, of Hawkstone, esq. and his heirs male; in default of such issue, to Samuel Hill, his nephew, of Shenstone Park, esq. in Staffordshire, and his heirs male; in default to his nephew, Thomas Hill, of Terne Hall in Salop, with the same proviso; remainder to the reverend Rowland Hill, rector of Forncett in Norfolk, and his male heirs. This gentleman was afterwards rector of Hodnet in Salop, and died unmarried upon the 11th of July, 1733.

John Hill, of Lieteach or Lutwich, third son of Rowland Hill by Margaret Whitehall, married — daughter of Stubbs, esq. of Shaw in Staffordshire, and by her had issue one son, Sir Rowland, who was created baronet, Janury 20, 1726-7, and five daughters; 1, Margaret, wife of Richard Brooke, of Norton in Cheshire, eldest son of Sir Thomas Brooke, baronet, who left by her Sir Richard Brooke, baronet; 2, Eleanor married to Borlace Wingfield, of Preston in Salop, esq. and hath issue Rowland, if no other son, and three daughters. Rowland Wingfield was a fellow-commoner of Oriel college, Oxford, 1750, and hath married daughter of Sir Walter Wagstaff Bagot, of Blythfield, baronet, and sister of Sir William Bagot, baronet: his residence is at Shrewsbury. John Hill, esq. and Margaret

Whitehall had three other daughters. Sir Rowland Hill, baronet, 1732, was appointed high-sheriff for the county of Salop; and, June 2, his marriage was inserted in the public papers, in these words, "On June 2, 1732, Sir Rowland Hill, baronet, a young gentleman of 8000*l.* per annum, was married to Miss Jane Broughton, daughter of the late Sir Bryan Broughton, baronet, of Broughton in Staffordshire, and sister of the present Sir Bryan Broughton." By her he had issue two sons, Richard, and Rowland; and two daughters, Jane, and Elizabeth. His arms are, quarterly, 1, Ermine, on a fess, Sable, a castle triple towered, Argent, *Hill*; 2, Sable, a Lion rampant crowned, Or, between three crosses, pattée fitchée, Argent, *Wlonkeflaw*; 3, Per pale, Or, and Argent, an Eagle displayed, Sable, *Bird*; 4, Gules, a chevron between three pheons, Argent, *Malpafs*; Crest, on a wreath a castle with five towers, Argent; over it a garland of laurel, proper. His seat is at Hawkstone near Hodnet.

Of Sir Rowland Hill, knight, citizen of London, and afterwards lord-mayor, we find further, that he had a grant from the Crown of the manor of Newnham Regis in Warwickshire, on the attainder of John Dudley, the potent duke of Northumberland, and earl of Warwick, in the 1st year of queen Mary, whose it was from the 7th year of the reign of king Edward VI. The same Sir Rowland had that part of Leek Wotton manor in Warwickshire called by the name of the Cross Grange, which before the Dissolution belonged to the monks of Kenilworth, with the church, both which he passed over to Sir Thomas Leigh, with his niece Alice Barker, in marriage. The same Sir Rowland, and Sir Thomas, purchased Dunchurch manor in Warwickshire, 1 and 2 Philip and Mary; which, on a division

sion of their purchases, were allotted to Sir Thomas Leigh. In the same manner went the estates there, which, before the Dissolution, were the possessions of Pipewell abbey.

One of the daughters of Rowland Hill, esq. and Margaret Whitehall married — Barbour, esq. a gentleman seated near Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, who had issue by her a son Samuel, and one daughter. The ancestors of — Barbour were settled at Flaschenbrook, in Staffordshire, which manor was in the king's hands 20 William I. by the name of Fletesbroc, or, as others, in the bishop's. 24 Edward I. Richard de Puisdon or Puisdon owned it, and left a son Jordan, in whose line it continued till the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV. when one Brown, of the family or retinue of Humphry Stafford duke of Buckingham, or of Henry his grandson (lineally descended from the noble family of Bagot, by Melicent, heiress of Robert lord Stafford in the time of king John), had it in marriage with the heiress of the Jordans, as they were then called, but originally Puisdons, and changed his name to that of Barbor, or Barbour. This Thomas Barbor * had issue Robert, living 21 Henry VIII. whose son was John, father of John Barbor, esq. of Flashbroke in Staffordshire, 5 and 8 Elizabeth, and of George; which George had a son Nicholas, 19 Elizabeth, father of Richard Barbour, gent. who had issue a daughter named Anne, married to Richard Weston, esq. of Rugeley, of a London family, and of which two were knights at the same time; and George, who, by Mary his wife, daughter of John Rugeley, of Dunston and Coventry, had a son Leicester, who accepted of a captain's commission from the Parliament party, and in other respects took an active part against his sovereign

* Living 12 Henry VI.

king Charles I. Leicester married Mary, daughter of Thomas Adelhead, of Milwich, and had by her Richard, living in the reign of Charles II. or James II. and nine other children. This Leicester Barbour, or a son of that name, was resident at Tamworth in 1673. John Barbour, of Flashbroke, elder brother of George, had two sons, Edward, and John. Edward had issue Dorothy, his only daughter and heir, married to Gerard Whorwood, esq. of Stourton castle in Staffordshire, son and heir of Sir Thomas Whorwood, knight, (who died 14 James I.), whose wife was Elizabeth, a natural daughter of Sir John Sutton, knight of the garter, and baron of Dudley castle; which Gerard (aged 40 years, 14 James I.) was seised of the manors of Kinfare and the castle, Stourton, Kingsley, Brome, Whorwood, alias Compton Hallows, in Staffordshire; Alvely in Salop; Kingford in Worcestershire; and of divers lands in Halfcote, Tettenhall, Dewfley, Compton, Sedgeley, Areley, and Le Hoo, in the county of Stafford.

This Edward Barbour, upon the payment of a subsidy granted by the laity in parliament to the queen, 18 Eliz. was rated at ten pounds, and (over and above) found two light horsemen for her majesty's army; he was living in 1583.

John, younger brother of Edward Barbour, married Anne, daughter of John Etwell, esq. and had by her John, who took to wife Dorothy, daughter of William Scott, esq. and had issue by her three sons; John, aged 9, 1664, living in 1673, and then has the title of Esquire; 2, Edward; 3, Leicester.

These families made some considerable figure by their service and attendance upon Robert Dudley earl of Leicester, the favourite of queen Elizabeth, and afterwards of his countess, who lived to a great age at her manor of Drayton-Basset, near Tamworth.

The

The last mentioned John Barbour bore for his coat of arms, Gules, three mullets, Argent, a bordure Ermine. The Flashenbrook family bore, Sable, three mullets engrailed, Argent; some of them added a dexter canton, Or.

Samuel, son of — Barbour, by the daughter of Rowland Hill, esq. and Margaret his wife, was born about 1690 or 1691, near Uttoxeter, upon an estate * that was his family inheritance, and was soon taken into the peculiar protection of his uncle, the honourable and reverend Richard Hill; and, when prepared under proper masters for the university, was sent to Cambridge, and entered in St. John's college, to which his uncle was so great a benefactor, and of which he himself had been a member; here he was soon taken notice of, as well for his good behaviour and regularity, as for a studious disposition, and a capacity fitted for any attainments; no pains were wanting to cultivate his genius, and the best of masters and tutors were chosen to instruct him in the sciences, in which he made great improvements. On his leaving the University, he was sent abroad to visit the most polite courts of Europe, under the powerful recommendation of his great friend, who had lived there in a public character much esteemed, especially amongst the Italian princes.

After visiting the court at Turin, he went to Venice and Milan, places he was greatly delighted with, and from them to the other most remarkable cities of Italy. Among other things he was curious to view the classic ground, more particularly those parts of which those inimitable poets of the Augustan age, Horace and Virgil, treat in their immortal works. Of these, in his latter

* Flashbrook, as I am informed; though the Barbours had an estate, and upon it a good mansion at Chathill in Staffordshire.

days,

days, he spoke with a kind of transport to myself, and received the highest satisfaction in reflecting that he had seen and visited them at a time when his infirmities had vastly impaired his constitution, and rendered him almost insensible to any other enjoyment of life, or a plentiful fortune.

He proceeded to France, and after some years returned to England, with a large store of real knowledge, and without the vanity of most of our young English travellers; superior to their fopperies of dress, and all affectation; and withal confirmed in these sentiments, that the Church of this kingdom as by law established was the best constituted Church in the world, and that the Revolution principles were most for the interest of this nation; professing to the day of his death, that these principles tended most to the security both of the present generation, and of our posterity. Returning a most accomplished gentleman, he was introduced at court, and was most graciously received by his majesty king George I. who soon after conferred upon him the office of Latin Secretary, with a salary of 200l. per annum; also collector and transmitter of the state papers in both the secretaries of state's departments; for which he was supposed as well qualified as any gentleman in England; and in the execution of which office no man was disappointed, hereby justifying the good opinion that most discerning men entertained of him from his first appearance and conversation. Some years after, he resigned these, and was made register of the Navy, or register of the high court of Admiralty, and likewise register of the court of Delegates by letters patent, which he held till his decease. He was also in parliament, being elected one of the members for the city of Lichfield, but did not long sit there, resigning of his own accord and motion, as not agreeable to his natural temper, which

which could not away with the manner of speaking and transacting the public affairs in that honourable house. He afterwards supported Sir Rowland Hill, baronet, his cousin, when he stood candidate for the city of Lichfield, and was the principal means of his carrying his election, his personal interest and great character swaying much with the inhabitants of that place; and when Sir Lister Holt, baronet, of Aston Hall, near Birmingham, stood for the same city, he gave him his interest; as he did likewise to the late Sir Walter Wagstaff Bagot, of Blithfield, baronet, canvassing the county of Stafford in part with him, and procuring such votes for him and his friend as contributed, in a great degree, to their successful return in parliament. In the year 1741, he was one of the commissioners appointed by act of parliament to collect the land-tax in the city and county of Lichfield; as also for the counties of Stafford and Warwick, which the following year was to raise the sum of two millions thirty-eight thousand sixty-five pounds eleven shillings and five pence, out of which sum the city of Lichfield was to pay four hundred and twenty pounds nineteen shillings and four pence; nor was he omitted in the other acts of parliament or commissions for the service of the kingdom in either of the abovesaid counties, as long as his health allowed him to act in public, or his residence in England would admit of his executing those several offices.

In 1722 he purchased the lands belonging to Hales Place, so named from the owner, John Hales, clerk of the hanaper in the reign of queen Elizabeth, before called the Whitefriars monastery in the city of Coventry; Sir Edward Hales, baronet, having procured an act of parliament for that purpose, that the debts of Sir Christopher, his brother, might be paid off; these being passed over to John duke of Montague, were by him conveyed to

to Samuel Hill, of Shenstone Park, esq. which estates are yet in in his heirs.

Early in the reign of king George the Second, on the decease of his wife, he went abroad to Italy and France, and continued some years out of England, till time did in some sort mitigate his great grief for his loss. During his absence the Park House was rented by —— Snead, of Bishton in Staffordshire, esq. On his return home, though his table was the receptacle of men of learning and reputation, he led in general a retired and domestic life, setting himself to make great improvements in his land, which he advanced to a high state of culture. To effect this, he employed great numbers of poor herein, pursuing the advice of a great master*, who, treating of the nature of liberality, makes it twofold, and says, we oblige those who stand in need of our assistance, either from the advantage of labour or money; the latter is the easier way, especially where the benefactor is a person of good estate, but the bounty bestowed on labour and industry is the fairer and better of the two, the more honourable and better becoming a clear and generous mind, for though the will may be free enough in both, yet the one obligation is rather a debt to fortune, but the other to his virtue. By pecuniary distributions the fountain itself may be exhausted, and one such benevolence is destroyed by another; and, in the very act, we lose the means of obliging. Besides, the other is more extensive; more people, not to mention the present profits of exercise and health, being thereby rendered serviceable both to their families and the public.

Nor was this gentleman deficient in the other kind of liberality, seeing we could make it appear, that he found such oc-

* Cicero.

casions of assisting, and met with several objects of his bounty in this way, which he thought just and proper, either to help such as had opportunity to raise themselves and families in the world, by their application of mind and industry, to a reasonable good situation, or, in a method of true humanity and benevolence, to succour such as from unavoidable circumstances, though of ancient families, were in declining case; a sort of generosity that Tully himself thought equal, and in some instances allowable to be put in practice, only with choice, and within compass; otherwise gentlemen of property, great as Mr. Hill's was, might easily squander away their whole estates upon inconsiderate and ill-judged gratuities, which prudent men would term lightness, profusion, or excess.

It cannot be denied, that he might have some personal interest in view in the employment of the poor, viz. the improvement of lands; if so in any degree, it must be of no great weight, because, having no issue, he was sure the benefits accruing from them, by virtue of the entail on those very lands, would pass, as indeed they did, to the heir at law, with the many new buildings, raised at a vast expence, upon his farms in this parish; and with regard to the poor themselves, it was found by experience at his death, that his employing them had considerably eased the rates and taxes of the several places to which they belonged, but especially of Shenstone. Or if any such interest is objected as of moment, even this is a self-love by no means meriting dispraise, but useful in all the concerns of mankind; men being culpable only when they exceed the proper bounds, and thereby become obnoxious to avarice or any other species of ill. Such were his amusements at a time of life when he was unable to read, or enjoy the conversation of his friends. Some years before his death he was afflicted with a rheumatism, or a

K

paralytic

paralytic complaint, in some measure occasioned by his continuing in marshy grounds or drains with his labourers; having likewise hurt his legs twice, he became utterly unable to walk; neither were the waters of the German Spa, those of Aix la Chapelle, and the pure air of South France, nor the English baths, all which he frequented, able to restore him. Being reduced to such circumstances, two gentlemen were appointed as companions, and to read to him, who were kept with him till his decease.

In religious duties he was very exact, setting an admirable example by his constant attendance upon the service of the church and its sacraments, and by his respectful behaviour to his minister, and the clergy in general. On the whole, we may term him a great and a very useful man. As to his political principles, Mr. Hill was a friend to the Revolution; revered the memory of the prince who delivered these kingdoms from Popery and Arbitrary Government, and was fond of the establishments made to secure the crown in the present royal family. As a scholar, he was well versed in Greek and Latin; Virgil and Horace of the Latin classics were favourites with him; but he most admired Sallust, for his nervous style and concise way of speaking. Of these authors especially he would frequently make large quotations, respecting what was read before him or discoursed of, even in the last six months of his life; and he well understood the French, Italian, and German languages; spoke well, and with propriety, on almost every subject, and would make many useful observations where the matter required it. Having, besides the advantage of considerable abilities, seen much of the polite and learned world; with a great memory and strong judgement, his mode of speaking was greatly instructive, commanding both respect and attention. He had,
a courtly

a courtly and fine manner of address, but could not away with or bear any thing of flattery; as he was well read in mankind, he allowed greatly for all men who came far short of his own fine qualities, provided they were sincere and behaved with decorum. In his domestic character, of a good husband, an excellent master to his servants, a sincere friend and benefactor, persons that knew him of long time generally agree. That we may do this gentleman's memory strict justice, he is charged with many frailties, and who is free from them? Such were his haughtiness, reserve, and a disposition warm enough; the last no question was natural to him, and the others might proceed from the manner of his education, and the great prospects he set out in life with. In person he was genteel, of a good stature, and rather full of flesh than otherwise, of a ruddy countenance, and was, as his form shewed, a man of considerable strength.

About the year 1721, the abovesaid Samuel Hill, esq. married lady Elizabeth Stanhope, second and younger daughter of Philip earl of Chesterfield, by lady Elizabeth his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of George Savil marquis of Halifax, by his second lady, Gertrude, daughter to the honourable William Pierpoint, esq. Lady Elizabeth Hill is to this day mentioned by all that knew her as a person of the greatest merit, whether considered in a religious or civil capacity. She was very affable to all, and of a most bountiful temper, all her aim appearing to be intended to render every one near her as happy as possible. She is described as abounding in charity and good works, as a support and blessing to the poor and distressed, whom she often personally visited, and was regardful of their complaints, never leaving them without such relief as she was capable of bestowing, being displeased if any object of compassion was concealed from her notice.

In the year 1727, she went to attend the coronation of king George the Second, and at London was taken ill of the small-pox, and died without issue, greatly regretted, upon the 24th day of November; one author * says, by mistake, upon the 14th of that month. The corpse, being put in a lead coffin, and over it one of wood, covered with fine black cloth, was carried to Shenstone, and interred in the vault belonging to the family at the Park, which, as we have already observed, was made by John Strickson, esq. for himself, but was never used till the remains of this excellent lady Hill were deposited in it, upon the 4th of December, 1727, as appears from the register-book. The inscription upon the coffin says, that she died 24th of November, at the age of 24 years.

Mr. Hill survived his wife many years, but never married again, dying issueless, upon the 21st day of February, 1758, and was buried upon Sunday the 26th, being then 67 years of age; his remains were deposited also near his lady's in the same vault.

For want of issue, the Park, Shenstone Hall, the manor of Sutton Madoc, in the county of Salop, a third part of Wrockwardine, of which Samuel Hill, esq. — Pemberton, or — Fludd, and Brook Forester of Wenlock, esqrs. were joint lords, an estate of value near the city of Coventry, the advowson of Shenstone church with the tithes, besides other lands, went, by the power of the entail made by the honourable and reverend Richard Hill, to Thomas Hill, of Terne, in Salop, esq. One estate, near Coventry, came to Sir Rowland Hill, of Hawkston, Salop, Baronet; and a third to Samuel Egerton, of Tatton Park in Cheshire, esq. but this last gentleman did not inherit from the entail, but as next heir to Samuel Hill, esq. who purchased it.

* Collins, in his Peerage.

After the death of this gentleman, Shenstone Park was leased by the present tenant for seven years, Abraham Hoskyns, esq. son of William Hoskyns, esq. of Stafford, which Abraham was an officer in the army in the reign of his late majesty king George II. and till he came to Shenstone Park, was settled in the neighbouring parish of Barr after he had disposed of his commission. He married Sarah, daughter of William Rowe, gent. of Birmingham, Warwickshire, by Elizabeth his wife, who is yet living at Shenstone Park, aged near 80. Abraham Hoskins, esq. and Sarah his wife had issue William, who died at 17 years old in 1763; Abraham, aged 17 in 1768; and Elizabeth, aged 15, 1768. William Hoskins of Stafford had a brother Richard, father of Abraham, an attorney at law in Burton upon Trent, in Staffordshire.

The reverend Rowland Woodward Hill, rector of Forncett in Norfolk, was of St. John's college, Cambridge, where he took the degree of Master of Arts, and had his nomination of Forncett's rectories, as united, from his own family, and afterwards of Hodnet in Salop. At his death, which happened in 1733, he left one hundred pounds yearly to the new Theatre at Cambridge; also one hundred pounds to poor clergymen's widows in the county of Salop. To this Rowland Hill, who died unmarried, was the title of Baronet limited. This gentleman, as I conjecture, was the second son of Thomas Harwood, by Margaret, daughter of Rowland Hill, of Hawkston, esq.

Thomas Hill, esq. took the name as Samuel his cousin german did, being before surnamed Harwood, of whose family we shall now proceed to treat.

John

John Harwood was a considerable tobacco and sugar merchant in the city of London, and was a great sufferer by the great fire which made such desolation in that city after the plague in the reign of king Charles II. yet had a good fortune left, especially in such effects as were providentially lodged in Shrewsbury and elsewhere. His son and heir was John, Doctor of Civil Law (of whom presently, who had a sister); and his younger son was Thomas, who married Margaret, daughter of Rowland Hill, esq. of Hawkstone in Salop, by Margaret, daughter of Richard Whitehall, of Whitchurch, esq. and had issue by her (who was sister of the honourable and reverend Richard Hill) two sons*, and two daughters, Martha and Anne. Martha was wife of Walter Gough, esq. of Oldfallings, near Wolverhampton in Staffordshire, an estate purchased by Henry Gough, esq. in the 6th year of the reign of James I. which Walter was son of Sir Henry, created a knight by king Charles II. and then was seated at Perry Hall in Barr parish, Staffordshire. Walter Gough, and Martha his wife, had issue four sons, Walter, Thomas, rector of Risby, Suffolk, who died January, 1786; Richard, an East India supercargo, lost in the Northampton Indiaman, and Henry; also daughters, of whom Martha, the third, married to John Fisher of Springfield, near Knoll in Warwickshire, esq. late high-sheriff for that county, who had by her a son, who died at the age of 20, and two daughters†. Henry, still living, was in the East-India company's service, but lately of Bushbury in Staffordshire, and unmarried. Walter, who died Oct. 4, 1773, one of his majesty's justices of the peace for the county of Stafford, who married twice; first to Mary, daughter of John Hunt, esq. of

* Thomas; and Rowland who was rector of Thornton in Cheshire, and died unmarried.

† One of these married ——— Moland, esq. and died, leaving issue by him four daughters. Her sister is still unmarried living at Springfield.

Sutton Cofield, and Winfom Green near Birmingham*, by whom he had 1. Walter, who died young; 2. Henry, educated at Repton school in Derbyshire, afterwards sent to the University of Oxford, and entered fellow-commoner at Christchurch; he lost his life by a fall from his horse in hunting, November 25, 1769†; 3. John, who was a short time with a silk merchant in the city of Coventry, and on the decease of his brother Henry entered a gentleman commoner at Oxford, and succeeded to the estate on the death of his father‡; and two daughters, the eldest still living unmarried; the youngest married in 1772, Simon Oliver Taylor, esq. of Irtlingborough, in the county of Northampton, and died in 1773, in childbed of her first child. Walter Gough, esq. married, secondly, June 15, 1758, the relict of — Clopton, esq. daughter and coheir of — Brierley § of Handsworth in Staffordshire, esq. by whom he had no issue. Martha, wife of Walter Gough, sen. of Oldfallings, long survived her husband, to the month of May, 1768, being old and full of days, and then died much lamented, with the reputation of a very good and hospitable gentlewoman.

Another daughter of the said Martha by Walter Gough, was wife of Samuel Harwood, of Hagborne in Berkshire, and also of

* At this last place he had a good house, now belonging to his grandson John Gough, esq. of Perry Hall.

† He was on a visit with his friend the Rev. Mr. Vernon, of Hanbury in Worcestershire, and they went to dine with Mr. Ligon; in coming home in the evening, with two or three gentlemen in company, Mr. Gough's horse threw him and dislocated his neck, and he was found quite dead when the gentlemen returned from catching his horse.

‡ He married in 1779, Eleanor, daughter of Thomas Mitton, esq. of Shipton, Salop, by whom he had a son, John, born 1780, a daughter, 1781, and she died in child-bed of her third child, a daughter, May 3, 1783.

§ She died July, 1781. Her sister married — Sacheverel.

Shrewsbury,

Shrewsbury, eldest son of John, LL. D. of Doctors Commons; which John was elder brother of Thomas Harwood of Terne, father of Thomas Hill, esq. of Terne, 1768. Samuel and Anne had two sons, and three daughters ||; Samuel, Watkin who went abroad and was in the army; all unmarried. Samuel was of Christchurch college in Oxford, and, 1767, went to study physick at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, a young gentleman of merit, and married a daughter of Thomas Mitton; Anne, their mother, was living in 1768. The eldest sister of Anne, wife of Samuel Harwood, of Hagborn and Salop, was wife of Thomas Mitton, of Shipton in Salop, esq. and had issue a son, who married a daughter of Sir Henry Edwards, of Shrewsbury, bart. and hath issue other sons and daughters; the eldest of the latter was married to John Gough, esq. of Perry Hall.

Anne, second daughter of Thomas Harwood, of Terne, esq. by the daughter of Rowland Hill, of Hawkstone, esq. was wife of John Kynaston, esq. of Hordley in Salop, nearly related to John Kynaston, esq. who petitioned for the barony of Powis, and, after serving several times in parliament for the county of Salop, died in 1733, possessed of an estate of 3000l. yearly, which he left to Corbet Kynaston, esq. his son. John Kynaston and Anne his wife had issue two sons, Edward and Roger, also a daughter, Amie, who died unmarried. Edward was member in the two last parliaments for the county of Montgomery, and hath his seat at Hardwick in Salop. He married ———, daughter of ——— Floyde, esq. a great heiress, but hath yet no child by her. Roger, the second son, is a barrister at law, by a daughter of ——— Powel, esq. of Shrewsbury, hath issue three sons, John, Edward, and Roger; his wife died in 1766; and he in October 1768 was a widower, and died

• Anne, Mary, and Martha.

John

John Harwood *, LL.D. of Doctors Commons, elder brother of Thomas, father of the present Thomas Hill, of Terne, esq. was seated at Hagburn in Berks; and had issue, 1, Samuel, as before, living in 1760; 2, James, a clerk, rector of Cliff in Kent, and vicar of Dartford, who married a daughter of — Chafe, and hath children; 3, Edward, who, by a daughter of — Prince, esq. of the High Hall near Shrewsbury, had John, who died childless, Edward, and Simon, who married three wives; first, Ann Baftyne, relict of John Baftyne, coal-merchant in London, who died without issue; secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of — Hudson, of Shrewsbury; thirdly, Elizabeth, daughter of — Sewell, esq. collector of the customs in the port of Chester, yet living; but neither had issue by him. Edward, second son of Edward, was educated in St. John's college, Cambridge, and took the degree of M. A. was afterwards vicar of Erith in Kent, and removing thence had the rectory of Thornton in Cheshire. He married two wives, first, Theodosia, daughter of John Trevifa, esq. of Crocordon in Cornwall, by whom he had two sons, John and Edward, also one daughter, Mary. John died 1736-7, being then a lieutenant in his majesty's navy, unmarried; Edward, educated in Shrewsbury school, was thence sent to St. John's college in Cambridge, and afterwards elected fellow of Clare Hall in that University, where he took the degree of M. A. in 1759; made vicar of this parish of Shenstone; and January 7, 1768, married Anna Maria Foreman, only daughter of Otho Foreman, of London, by Mary his wife, daughter of — Stephenson †, esq. of Northwich in Cheshire, collector of the salt duties there. Mary married, 1760, to James Folliott,

* A sister of his was married to — Jerney, esq. who had by her a daughter, living and unmarried in 1768.

† He came out of the North of England, and had been a considerable merchant.

merchant in Chester, second son of James Folliott, esq. who served at the siege of Londonderry, in Ireland, in the reign of king William III; and is yet living, in October 1768, being on half-pay, and 80 years old. James Folliott and Mary Harwood had issue William Harwood Folliott, born 1761; and Theodosia, born 1762, who died in 1768; Mary, wife of James Folliott, merchant, deceased 1764. Edward Harwood, rector of Thornton, married, secondly, in the year 1738, to Elizabeth, relict of John (or Peter) Trevisa, captain in the African Company's service, who died on the coast of Guinea, leaving Elizabeth, born in 1726, living in 1768, in Chester; which Elizabeth, the widow, was daughter of John Grove, gent. of Okeley-green in the parish of Bray, Berks; and yet survives her second husband, the Reverend Edward Harwood, who died in 1760, without issue from his second marriage. Captain John Trevisa abovesaid was brother to Theodosia, first wife of the Reverend Edward Harwood.

Ralph, fourth son of Edward Harwood, married to — daughter of — at Molde in Flintshire, and is since dead; but his widow survives; and a daughter of theirs was married in 1768.

Thomas Hill, son of Thomas Harwood, esq. by the sister of the Hon. and Rev. Richard Hill, was early taken into the particular protection of his uncle, who took all possible care to have him educated as Samuel his cousin was, settled in the same manner a fortune upon him, and entailed Shenstone Park with other estates of great value upon him, which accordingly he became possessed of upon the decease of Samuel Hill, esq. in 1758. This gentleman and his issue male are in the entail of the dignity of a baronet of Great Britain, on decease of such issue of the present Sir Rowland Hill, bart. He hath married two wives; first, — daughter of Sir Littleton Powis, knight, many years

in the port of Chester, yet living; but neither had issue by him; this Simon died in 1767, leaving the Reverend Edward Harwood his heir male. Edward, second son of Edward, by a daughter of — Prince, esq. was educated in St. John's college, Cambridge, and took the degree of Master of Arts, was afterwards vicar of Erith in Kent, and removing thence had the rectory of Thornton in Cheshire. This gentleman married two wives, first, Theodosia, daughter of John Trevifa, esq. of Crocordon in Cornwall, by whom he had two sons, John and Edward, also one daughter, Mary. John died 1736-7, being then a lieutenant in his majesty's navy, unmarried; Edward, educated in Shrewsbury school, was thence sent to St. John's college in Cambridge, and afterwards elected fellow of Clare Hall in that University, where he took a Master of Arts degree; in the year 1759, made vicar of this parish of Shenstone; and upon the 7th of January, 1768, married Anna Maria Foreman, only daughter of Otho Foreman, of the city of London, by Mary his wife, daughter of — Stephenson*, esq. of Northwich in Cheshire, collector of the salt duties there. Mary married, 1760, to James Folliott, merchant in Chester, second son of James Folliott, esq. who served at the siege of Londonderry, in Ireland, in the reign of king William III. and is yet living in October, 1768, being on half-pay, and 80 years old. James Folliott and Mary Harwood had issue William Harwood Folliott, born 1761; and Theodosia, born 1762, who died in 1768; Mary, wife of James Folliott, merchant, deceased 1764. Edward Harwood, rector of Thornton, married, secondly, in the year 1738, to Elizabeth, relict of John † Trevifa, captain in the African company's service, who died on the

* He came out of the North of England, and had been a considerable merchant.

† Or Peter.

coast of Guinea, leaving Elizabeth, born in 1726, living in 1768, in Chester; which Elizabeth, the widow, was daughter of John Grove, gent. of Okeley-green in the parish of Bray, Berks, and yet survives her second husband, the Reverend Edward Harwood, who died in 1760, without issue from his second marriage. Captain John Trevisa abovesaid was brother to Theodosia, first wife of the Reverend Edward Harwood.

The sister of John Harwood, LL.D. of Doctors Commons, married to ——— Jerney, esq. who had by her a daughter, living and unmarried in 1768.

Ralph, fifth son of John Harwood, LL.D. married * to ——— daughter of ———, at Molde in Flintshire, and is since dead; but his widow survives. Another son died young. Of the two daughters of Dr. Harwood, Elizabeth the eldest married to Mr. Edward Burroughs of Chester, living in 1768 †; Mary the youngest married to Bartholomew Greenwood, esq. of London and Grantham; but neither of these had children; Mary is dead. Thomas Hill, son of Thomas Harwood, esq. of Terne, by the sister of the Honourable and Reverend Richard Hill, was early taken into the particular protection of his uncle, who took all possible care to have him educated as Samuel his cousin was, and settled in the same manner a fortune upon him, and entailed Shenstone Park with other estates of great value upon him, which accordingly he became possessed of upon the decease of Samuel Hill, esq. of Shenstone Park, in the year 1758. This gentleman and his issue male are in the entail of the dignity of a bart. of Great Britain, on decease of such issue of the present Sir Rowland Hill, bart. He hath married two wives; first ——— daughter of Sir Littleton Powis, knight, many

* And had a daughter married in 1768.

† She died in November 1768.
years

years one of the Justices of the Court of King's Bench to his majesty king George I. till, becoming superannuated, he had his *quietus*, with the grant of a considerable pension from the crown, and then retiring into the country, died March 16, 1732, at his own seat in the county of Salop. By this lady Mr. Hill had Thomas, who died young; a daughter, married to Burton, esq. of Altham, or Longnore, near Shrewsbury, who are both living, and have children; also Margaret, married to Bennet Sherard*, baron Le Trim in Ireland, earl of Harborough in England, by whom she had issue twins, a son, lord Sherard, and daughter, which, with the lady herself, died soon after the birth, 1767, as did the son about a year after. Thomas Hill, esq. married, secondly, to Susanna Maria, eldest of the four daughters and coheirs of the honourable William Noel, who, being educated to the law, became one of the king's counsel, and, in 1741, member of parliament for the borough of Stamford in Lincolnshire, also recorder of that corporation, after made chief justice of Chester, and at length made one of his majesty's justices of the Common Pleas; since deceased. He was also in parliament in 1733, but absent on the circuit when the noted bill for the excise was carried in the house. He was second and youngest son of Sir John Noel, baronet, by Mary daughter and coheir of Sir John Clobery, of Winchester, baronet. Which Sir John Noel was son of Sir William, by Margaret, daughter of John, lord Lovelace, of Hurley in Berks, son of Verney Noel, created a baronet, 12 Charles II. by Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir Wolstan Dixie, of Bosworth in Leicestershire, knight, and was descended of the same family with the parliamentary barons of Hilcot in Staffordshire; the viscount Wentworth of Nettlestead, and the earl of Gainsborough; all

* Elder brother to the present earl. He died in 1770.

originally of Ellen hall in Staffordshire, and whose ancestor was one of the adventurers of William the First, king of England. Thomas Hill, esq. and Sufanna Maria, daughter of the Honourable judge Noel, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Trollop, of Cafewick in Lincolnshire, bart. had issue two sons, Samuel and Noel; and two daughters Sufanna Maria, who died 1761-2, unmarried, and Mary who was married to the late Sir Bryan Broughton Delves, bart. from whom she received a large addition of fortune by his last will; this lady is living and unmarried*; she had no issue by him. Samuel was, with his brother, under the tuition of the Reverend Mr. Fletcher, who was also their private tutor when they were sent to the university of Cambridge, where they were both entered fellow-commoners of St. John's college, and went with one or both of them on their travels; whether Samuel had an honorary degree in Cambridge I am not informed, but conjecture such an one was conferred upon him; being taken ill of a fever, he died soon after, in the year 1766, unmarried, to the great regret of his family, at the age of 22 years or thereabouts, possessed of Shenstone Park, which his father had conveyed to him. Noel Hill, esq. was his heir to the Shenstone estates, which, besides other lands, consists of the Old Hall, the Park, the advowson of the church, and the tythes. He was as above said with his brother at the University, and at the time of Samuel's decease in Scotland pursuing his studies. He took the degree of Master of Arts in Cambridge, and performed regularly the exercises requisite for it. In the year 1768 his father, who is advanced in years, declining any farther attendance on parliament, he was chosen in his place, with lord Clive, for the town of Shrewsbury.

* In 1769 she married to John Elrington, esq.

In the month of October, 1768, Thomas Hill, esq. of Cleveland-court, St. James's, was living, and a widower, aged about 77; and Noel Hill, esq. member of parliament for Shrewsbury, his only son, aged 23, a young gentleman of whom not only his family and friends have great expectations, but also his country, from his known abilities and nobleness of nature. In 1768 he married —, daughter of Henry Vernon, esq. of Hilton in Staffordshire, deceased, by lady — Wentworth, daughter of the earl of Stafford, and has issue a daughter, born October 4, 1769.

Sir Rowland Hill, only son of John Hill, esq. of Lutwich in the county of Salop (third son of Rowland Hill of Hawkstone, by Margaret Whitehall, by — daughter of — Stubbs, of Shaw in Staffordshire), was created a baronet * by king George II. out of his regard to the many services done this kingdom by the Honourable and Reverend Richard Hill, his uncle. In the year 1732 it was publicly said, that this Sir Rowland Hill was in possession of estates valued at almost eight thousand pounds per annum; which I the rather observe here to shew how great a fortune the said Richard Hill must have had or acquired to raise so many of his family; as Sir Rowland Hill, the late Samuel Hill of Shenstone Park, Thomas Hill of Terne, and the Reverend Rowland Woodward Hill. Sir Rowland † Hill, Baronet, in the month of June, 1732, married Jane, eldest of the two daughters of Sir Bryan Broughton, bart. (descended of the ancient family of Broughton who were seated at Longdon, near Lichfield in Staffordshire), by his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Delves, of Doddington in Cheshire, bart. by his first lady, Jane, daughter of Sir Richard

* January 20, 1726-7.

† High Sheriff of Salop for the year 1732.

Knightley,

Knightley, of Fawesley in Northamptonshire, who was Knight of the Bath, with which Jane Broughton Sir Rowland had a fortune of thirty thousand pounds; they have issue several children, both sons and daughters.

To conclude what we have to say further of the family of Thomas Hill, esq. now of Terne, we find, on stricter observation, a knight, Sir Edward Harwood, from whom came John, who married a daughter of ——— Allen, a merchant in London, and left three sons, viz. Sir Edward, knight, a colonel in the guards; 2, ———, a commodore; 3, John Harwood, a merchant of London, and after of Shrewsbury, who married Martha, daughter of Edward Moreton, esq. of Shropshire, and left three sons and four daughters; John, Thomas, Edward, Martha, Anne, Mary, and Abigail. John was LL.D. of Doctors Commons, as aforesaid, who married Anne, daughter of Bulteal, a Spanish merchant, and had issue by her only two sons, and one daughter, Anne; which shews the information we received of his having a third son, Edward, was a mistake, seeing he had only a son Samuel and James, with Anne, a daughter. Thomas was father of Thomas Hill, esq. of Terne, in October, 1768; of Rowland, Martha, and Anne, of all whom we have already treated. Edward, the brother, and not the son, of John, LL.D. married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Hayes, esq. who resided near Shrewsbury, and left issue John, Edward, Samuel, Ralph, Elizabeth, and Mary. John had a daughter, who died young; Edward was rector of Thornton, and died 1760; Samuel died a bachelor; Simon died in 1767, and married as before; Ralph had a daughter, who, in 1768, married Beoley, of Mold in Flintshire. Ralph Harwood's widow was living in November, 1768. Elizabeth was married to Edward Burroughs, and is lately dead; this Elizabeth was daughter

ter of Edward Harwood by Elizabeth Hayes; and Mary her sister married Bartholomew Greenwood, esq. Martha, eldest daughter of John Harwood of Terne, married Simon Hanmer, of Kennet in Salop, esq.; Anne married ——— Curtis, esq. eldest son of Sir George Curtis, bart.; Mary died, unmarried, at Shrewsbury; Abigail married John Congreve, esq. of Stretton in Staffordshire, of whom came the Reverend Mr. Congreve of Leacroft Hall, near Cannock, and colonel Congreve; a family noted for having estates in this county from the Conquest.

The park, and lands about it, which are of large circuit (three miles or more), claim a discharge of tythes. As to the rectorial or great tythes, they belong to Noel Hill, esq. whose property these lands are, except such as came to Samuel Egerton, esq. Of these, therefore, we need say little, as being in the hands of their own tenants; yet it may not be amiss to observe, that Mr. Brandreth often regretted his incapacity to give them up to the church, upon family accounts, when the tythes were in no case to be compared to the present value of them. What he could properly spare he did, giving the minister a yearly present of ten guineas, besides what was bestowed by way of gratuity from the gentlemen who possessed the lands belonging to the two parks. Neither may we omit to remark, that the late Samuel Hill, esq. and the present tenants Abraham Hoskyns, esq. and Mr. Elde, have never failed in extending the same kindness to the vicar. But, as objections are made by others who hold part of the park lands, we shall proceed to observe, that these tenants plead a freedom from the payment of small tythes, or those termed vicarial, by a modus of one shilling and ten pence for the whole park, or some such trifling sum. On this subject, therefore, we affirm with persons most learned in the laws of
this

this kingdom, and who understand its constitution, that what we call time of memory is reckoned from the reign of Richard the First; and any custom may be destroyed by evidence of its non-existence in any part of the long period from his days to the present. Wherefore as the modus or real composition is supposed to have been a just and equal contract, or in other words, the full value of the tythes at the time of making such agreement, it is a given rule and certain, "If the modus is so much as to exceed the value of the tythes in the time of king Richard I. this modus is *felo de se* (destroys itself); for as it would be destroyed by any direct evidence to prove its non-existence at any time since that reign, so also it is destroyed by carrying in itself such internal evidence of a much later origin;" and it is not equal and fit that where such modus * does in no sense come to the value of the tythes of perhaps the poorest tenant within the compass of the park, it should destroy itself, or be of no effect? Let every unprejudiced person consider and determine whether laws should not be founded upon the principles of reason, and then we think they may possibly join us in opinion.

With regard to the vicarage house and glebe, these pay no tythes to the rector, if held by the vicar or curate, nor *vice versa*. It is termed prescription to be discharged of them; and to pay no compensation for them, because of the axiom †, "that a church pays not tenths to the church;" but these kind of privileges are personal both to king and clergy, for their tenant or lessee must pay tythes of the same lands, though in their own occupation they are not tytheable.

* For the whole.

† Ecclesia decimas non solvit ecclesie.

In this parish, either at Wood-end or at Shenstone, hath sometime resided a good family named *Colyere*, the last surviving heir of which is Mrs. Graciana Colyere, living here in November 1768 *.

That the Colyeres were of note, we have an opportunity of shewing from accounts well authenticated, and which we will lay before the reader, especially as a well-known Antiquary † affirms as follows :

“ Mr. James Colyere owns Darlaston in Staffordshire, whose grandfather was first a taylor, then a draper, and last of all a wool-stapler, by which he got so much money as to purchase this manor, almost all stone, a pretty market town, and a thoroughfare to London; also a goodly farm one mile from Trent Southwards, and two miles from Stone, being a grange belonging to the abbey of Cumbermere in Cheshire,” a religious house founded in 1134, 35 Henry I. for white monks. This was called Earl’s Hyde, but now commonly Yarlet ‡, being anciently the property of Roger earl of Montgomery, and Belesme in Normandy, baron of Chichester, earl of Arundel and Salop in England, containing one hide of land, which this lord gave to that abbey soon after the Conquest; the date of the foundation of Cumbermere shews a mistake. Again, he says, “ Darlaston belonged, in the reign of king William the First, to the abbey of Burton upon Trent. Jeffry the abbot passed it to Ormus de Guidon, who, by a daughter of Nicholas de Beauchamp, sheriff of this county, had a son Robert, father of Aliva, wife of Engenulph de Gresley, who had Hawis de Darlaston, wife of Henry de Verdon (t. Edward II.). In the reign of Henry VIII. James Colyere bought it and Earl’s Hyde grange,

* And in 1774. EDITOR.

† An obvious corruption of *Yearl Yde*.

‡ Erdswick.

which had been Roger de Montgomery's, but was given by Robert de Baskerville, and confirmed by Hugh Lacy, to the aforesaid abbey, 50 Henry III.

It is certainly no objection to the character of this family, that trade was their advancement, and we do not find any thing unworthy or vile laid to the charge of Mr. James Colyere; we may, therefore, justly suppose him to have been a person of fortune, or at least a man of great industry and integrity in his dealings with mankind, else it seems very probable this writer would not have failed to have transmitted a worse character to posterity than to note only the low condition of a taylor, from whence he rose suddenly to great fortune. We must also observe, that this same gentleman hath been already charged with reporting idle stories, or taking fabulous tales upon trust.

Another gentleman*, speaking of those who had the church lands, names Colyere as one whose family did not prosper on account of such purchase or possessions; but such objections are above our knowledge to answer with satisfaction; nor do we choose to say any thing of such matters, as if judgements overtook all that had to do with the dissolved abbey lands; but it would, however, be a christian office to restore so much as would decently support the ministers in all places where they have not a proper maintainance, a circumstance that is generally complained of, but without any hopes of redress.

One account of the COLYARES of Darlaston.

James Colyare, of Darlaston, esq. had Robert (living in 1583), who married Agnes, daughter of Sir Thomas Venables, of Kinderton in Cheshire, a family ennobled by Hugh de Lupus de

* Degge.

Abrincis,

Abrincis, earl of Chester, in whose parliament they sat, by authority from king William I. till the county palatine was annexed to the crown by king Henry III. in 1238. Gilbert Venables, baron of Kinderton, held of Hugh, earl of Chester*, the lordships of Eccleston, Aldburg, Torporley, Wettenhall, Herford, Lyme, Lee, Wy-mundham, Brereton, in which were two hydes geldable Cimbretton, Daneport, Wittune, and Blackenhale; and in the account of fees belonging to the earldom of Chester†, 37 Henry III. as taken by Alan lord le Zouch, the chief justice, we find a Roger de Venables who held ten knights fees of it. In 1762 George Venables Vernon, of the same descent, was created baron Vernon, of Kinderton in Cheshire, yet living at Sudbury in Derbyshire. Robert Colyere and Agnes Venables had issue James, Christopher, Richard, Thurstan, and Robert; also seven daughters, Elizabeth, Margaret, Isabel, Cecily, Lettice, Mary, and Grace. Of these Elizabeth was wife of James Scrimshire, of Norbury in Staffordshire, esq. second son of John Scrimshire, by Dorothy daughter of John Talbot of Grafton, descended lineally from Sir Gilbert, who was a knight banneret, knight of the garter, governor of Calais, third son of John, second earl of Shrewsbury of that name, in whom were the baronies of Talbot of Castle Goodrich, Strange of Blackmere, Furnival, Falconbridge, Lovetot; the earldoms of Waterford, Wexford, and Valence, with the barony of Dungarvon in Ireland, besides other honours. James and Elizabeth Colyere, of Scrimshire, were ancestors of the Norbury family.

Robert Colyere, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, had ‡ a coat of arms granted or confirmed, viz. *Argent on a chevron Azure,*

* Lib. de Domeſday.

† Lib. Rubeus in Saccario.

‡ Arma conceſſa Roberto Colyar de Darlaſton, per literas pat. anno primo Elizabethæ reginæ, per Gul. Hervey tunc Clarentieux regem armorum, "*Morus dimidiatus Aſſyrii, coloris dextrâ tenens ramunculum quercinum, aurium annulis per utrumque aureis,*" in alluſion it ſhould ſeem to his name, quaſi *Coal ear*, i. e. *Black ear*.

three oakflips, acorns Or between three demy unicorns currant, Gules; Crest, on a wreath a demy Blackmoor holding an oak flip in his right hand Arg. acorns, Or. But a much more exact descent of this family with that of the Doryngton or Dodingtons, was lately in the hands of Mrs. Gratiana Colyere, which we also give with some additions.

Descent of the DODYNGTONS, with another Account of the COLYER family*.

John de Dorrington had issue William, who had a son Roger, father of William, whose son and heir was Philip Doryngton, who had Thomas de Dodington (8 Hen. V.), in the county of Somerset. William, father of Philip, by deed confirmed to Nicholas Fitz Roger de Cantoe, for his homage and service, all that land lying in Barnardsworth, in the manor of Doddeton, which William his grandfather held, to have and to hold to him and his heirs, of William de Doddeton and his heirs, with all rights, liberties, and customs, as his grandfather William had and held those lands. Thomas, as above, (living in the reign of Richard II. and 8 Henry V.) married two wives; 1, Beatrix, daughter of — Bachelor; 2, Joan —, of whom presently. By the first he had issue John, his son and heir (8 Henry V.), who, by Mary, daughter of Payn de Hutton, had issue John. He, by Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Oliver Hufley, had, 1. Richard, 2. John, 3. Thomas, 4. William, which two last died issueless. Richard, by Elizabeth

*. Hoc stemma præclaræ et antiquæ familiæ Coleiorum de Darlaston, in comitatu Staff. eos deducens ab eorum adventu in Angliam qui fuit tempore Hen. Vlti. et addenda unâ cum lineâ vetustâ familia de Dodyngton, alias Doryngton, quantum fieri possit. Ex evidentia Fran. Colyer, de Darlaston, regisque archivis diligentia ac fide collectum est verbatim a stemmate.

daughter

daughter and coheir of John Leigh, esq. had one son John, also a second son Ægidius, and two daughters, Jane and Joanna. John married Thomafyne, daughter of Robert Duland of Devonshire. Thomas de Dodyngton abovesaid, by Joan * his second wife, daughter and heir of John Guphay de Woodland, in the parish of Mere, had Philip, who had issue John de Dodyngton, of Woodland in Wilts, father of Philip, who marrying Joan, daughter and heir of John Hugyns, had William Dodyngton, who married two wives; 1. Jane, daughter of — Poyntz; 2. —, daughter of — Halfewell, of Somersetshire; but read of no child he had by either.

We return now to Sir John, second son of John Dodington and Elizabeth Hufsey, who had an only daughter, Isabel, wife of Robert Colyere, a Frenchman, who came into England in the reign of Henry VI, and of whom the family tradition is, that he, during the wars in France, adhered to the interests of king Henry, and, upon the losses that there befel the English, he left his native country, and settled in this kingdom, at Darlaston in the county of Stafford. Robert de Colyere of Darlaston and Isabel de Dodyngton had issue, 1. James; 2. Thurstan, who died without issue; 3. George, warden of Manchester; 4. Robert, who had issue John, a servant in the household of king Henry VIII. and queen Elizabeth. He married Elizabeth Turck, but we know not whether he had any child. She bore for her arms, Argent, two lions rampant, Gules, between a cross engrailed, Azure, on it three bezants, Gules; his coat was the field Sable, on it a cross fitchée, Gules.

* John, son of Thomas by Beatrix, batchelor, did give and confirm to Joan his mother-in-law an annuity of 46s. 8d. to be paid out of certain lands in Somersetshire; and after her decease to come to Philip her son by his father, as by deed dated 8 Henry V.

James

James married a daughter of ——— Levifon, of Wolverhampton in Staffordshire, and had Robert Colyer, of Darlaston (1583); 2. George, who married Elizabeth, daughter of ——— Chilton; 3. Francis, and six daughters. Agnes, wife of ——— Serjeant de Cotes, of Staffordshire; Elizabeth married to ——— Austyn; Jane, wife of ——— Woodcock of London; Isabel married to ——— Hiley; Ursula, who was married to a Mr. Fox; the youngest daughter was wife of ——— Nicholson. Robert married twice; first, to Agnes, daughter of Sir Thomas Venables, of Kinderton, knight; secondly, to Joyce, daughter of Scrimshire de Norbury, of Staffordshire, esq. by whom he had an only child, Elizabeth, who was married to James Scrimshire, of the same family, esq.

Robert Colyere and Agnes Venables had issue five sons and six daughters, as faith the descent*; 1. Margaret, wife of Ralph Smith, alias Tarbox, second son of William Tarbox, of Lancaster; 2. Isabel; 3. Cecily, married to Thomas Harper, son and heir of Walter Harper, of Chinner in Oxfordshire; 4. Lettice, wife of Thomas Kempson, of Wolseley Park, Staffordshire; 5. Mary, wife of ——— Coyney†, younger son of ——— Coyne, of Weston Coyney in Staffordshire; 6. Anne, wife of Edward Harcourt, second son of Simon Harcourt, esq. whose estates lay at Raunton and Ellenhall in Staffordshire; descended of Gervase count de Harcourt, who came with the Conqueror, and of the same line with Simon created earl Harcourt and viscount Newnham, 1749. The five sons of Robert and Agnes Colyere were,

* Penes dom. Gratian. Colyere, 1768.

† Adam Cuney or Coyney, was third and youngest son of John Cuney, of Weston Coyne, esq. (1583); a family seated there in the reign of William I. which had married into the noble lines of Burnel, Erdington, and others. Arms were Or, on a bend Sable, three fleurs de lis Argent.

1. James;

1. James; 2. Richard, who married Sarah, daughter of — Charnell; 3. Christopher, of Yarlet or Earl's Hide, whose wife was daughter of Sir Walter Aston, knight, of Tixall, of which family came lord Aston, baron of Forfar in Scotland; 4. Thurstan, who married Elizabeth daughter and heir of — Tunstall, esq. and had a son James, of Darlaston: 5. Robert, who married —, relict of — Revel, of Ogstone in Derbyshire.

Robert Colyer * abovesaid purchased the manor of Hilderstone of John lord Sheffield, whose ancestor had, by a marriage with a daughter of — Delves, esq. this lordship of Hiderstone in Staffordshire. This same Robert in 1583 resided at Darlaston, and on a visitation held that year in the county of Stafford was, on strict examination, allowed to be a gentleman, and permitted to use the coat of arms we have already mentioned. Thus seems to be confuted the tale given by Mr. Erdswick, and to be confirmed the pedigree now or lately in the keeping of Mrs. Colyere of Shenstone.

In the 13th of queen Elizabeth, November 19, Dorothy Colyer, daughter of John, late of Dalby Lees in Derbyshire, received a legacy left by her said father from the hands of German Pole of Dalbery Lees, gent. and Ann his wife, her mother-in-law, the executrix of his will. We return now to the descent.

James, the eldest son of Robert Colyer, by Agnes Venable, took to wife Jane, second daughter of Robert Needham, esq. of Crevac, Shavington, and Shentone, in Salop; high sheriff of Salop in the 6th, 28th, and 37th of queen Elizabeth, a commander in Ireland, vice president of the council on the marches.

* He had the manor of Crakemarsh in Staffordshire by purchase from Christopher Sheffield, brother to lord Sheffield.

of Wales; by Frances, daughter of Sir Edward Tixall; which Jane was also sister to Sir Robert Needham, created by king Charles I. in 1625, viscount of Kilmorey in the county of Clare, in Ireland, by letters patents.

This James appears to have been a great waster of his estates; he sold the manor of Hilderstone and Crakemarshe to Sir Gilbert Gerard, master of the rolls, in whose family it was in 1730; the lordships of Stone and Darlaston he conveyed to Robert Needham, esq. his father in-law; Earl's Hyde he sold to Christopher Colyer, his brother, whose son and heir Edward possessed it in 1595, on the death of Christopher; which Edward married —, daughter of — Allet, esq. of Sugnall in Staffordshire, but we have no account of his children. James Colyer, esq. 26th of June. in the 17th year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, had a share in a bond for a considerable sum of money due to him and others from Mrs. Ann Pole of Radburn, which Walter Sutton of Longstoe in Hants, clerk, engaged to satisfy.

Francis Colyere, son of James and Jane as above, married two wives; 1. Anne Crompton; 2. Anne, relict of William Hulme, of Rowley gate in Staffordshire. By the first, Anne, daughter of William Crompton, of Stone Abbey and Stone Park, esq. he had issue 9 sons, and 6 daughters; 1. Jane, wife of — Dody, of Hanchurch in Staffordshire; 2. Dorothy; 3. Anne; 4. Elizabeth; 5. Catherine, wife of Richard Bassano, of Walthamstow in Essex; 6. Alice. The sons were, 1. Robert; 2. Thomas; 3. Francis, who, by Martha, daughter of James Scrimshire, of Norbury manor, esq. had issue Francis; 4. George; 5. Richard; 6. John; 7. William; 8. Walter, who married Lettice, daughter of — Humphries, of Longdon in Staffordshire; 9. Thomas. Robert, by Margaret his wife, daughter of Edward Anson, of Dunston in Staffordshire,

had

had one son, James, and 6 daughters; 1, Anne, wife of ——— Whitefield; 2 and 3, Marys; 4, Elizabeth; 5, Catherine; 6, Margaret, wife of ——— Barnsfield, of Dunstone. Both this Robert, and James his son, are said to have spent a principal part of their remaining estates; the family also suffered much in the civil war in the reign of king Charles I, and under the Usurpation; some of them are said likewise to have been faulty in those times.

In February 1643-4, Margaret, relict of Edward Collier lately deceased, petitioned the committee at Stafford*, to relieve her, touching her dower in certain lands within the manor of Yarlet; upon which orders were given, that she should receive 13l. 6s. 8d. out of Yarlet farm, then in the holding of Francis Colyer, esq. and of John Blackmore; a parcel of land in her own holding, valued at 5l. per ann. to be a part, and the half year's rent to commence on the 25th of March ensuing. John Blakemore usually paid a rent of sixty pounds for his farm at Yarlet; but on the 14th of March 1644-5, he was ordered by the committee to pay to Mr. Colyer only half of the usual rent. The reason is not given, but, in all likelihood, on account of the troubles, and the continual exactions made upon him, he could not make the best of his farm and his produce. In 1643, Sir William Fairfax, in his march through Stafford, January 17, took from Mr. James Colyer of Stone, a bay mare valued at 3l. 6s. 8d., for the mounting of a trooper; on complaint, the committee ordered the constable of Stone to levy the said money upon the town of Stone, and therewith to pay Mr. Colyer; yet we find this gentleman fined one shilling for swearing.

* Committee minutes in MS. in the hands of Mrs. Burney, of Aldershaw near Shenstone.

March 13, 1643-4, Robert Collyer, of Darlaston near Stone, was brought to Stafford, that the governors there might compel him to advance 30*l.* upon the parliament propositions. The result of it was, that he was obliged to pay five pounds at that time, and to engage to give five more in three weeks, upon which he was released, and had the public faith of the kingdom for the money he was to advance, to which he subscribed his name, Robert Colier.

April 17, 1644, the land of Francis Colier, of Stone, esq. was sequestered, he being a delinquent; and it was ordered, that the weekly pay, due for his lands in Stone, shall be repaid by Mr. Sankey and Mr. Thorley, solicitors for the sequestrations, out of the rents of the said Francis Colier, esq. and that Mrs. Colier, his wife, shall be freed from that payment for the lands allotted her in Stone. We find that on the 23d of August following, Mrs. Colier, wife of Francis Colier, esq. was permitted to receive the rents of the Stone estates, that she might be the better enabled to pay the weekly assessments laid upon her in that constablewick; but this order was to continue only during the pleasure of the committee at Stafford.

We now proceed to finish the descent. "James, only son of Robert Colier by Margaret Anson (of the same family with the late lord Anson, of Shukburgh in Staffordshire, baron of Soberton in Hants; and the present member of parliament for Lichfield), married ——— daughter of ——— Gifford, of Water Eaton (related to the ancient family seated at Chillington in Staffordshire), descended of the same family with the Giffords, earls of Buckingham in England, and of Longueville in Normandy (in the reigns of William I. and William Rufus); and had issue by her, 1. James, who died an infant; 2. Christopher;

3. Francis; 4. Walter; also six daughters; 1. Maria; 2. Elizabeth; 3. Anne; 4. Bridget; 5. Dorothy; 6. Martha." Christopher * was of Wood-end, in the parish of Shenstone, during the life of James his father, who lived some time at the mansion called the Moss, afterwards in Shenstone village, but died either at Rudgley or Cannock. To this Christopher came the Yarlet estate, and others, by will of Christopher Colier his godfather and relation; but they were again sold by his father and himself to Mr. William Murrall of Bagnal, and to Thomas Murrall his brother, of Whitchurch, valued now at 300l. per ann. It was by these gentlemen entailed upon John, son of the same Thomas; which John, in November 1768, was living, an attorney at law, and unmarried. James Colier sold also an estate of 50l. per annum, lying at Ledal near Penrick in Staffordshire; and lands in Darlaston, which his son Christopher confirmed. This gentleman married Hannah, daughter of the reverend Robert Grace, and had issue only three daughters; 1. Maria, who died of a consumption in 1756, unmarried; 2. Gratiana (in whose hands was the pedigree here given) living and unmarried; 3. Elizabeth, wife of the reverend Joseph Hamilton, both deceased in 1756; also an infant son of theirs, who died soon after his birth the same year. Christopher Colier, gent. died in 1735. We have an account of two other families of the Coliers of some note, living in this parish, but not of the same lineage. The register mentions Mr. William Colier, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, which two families lived, one in Overstonal and Fotherley; the other in Lyndon, of which was Thomas, who married Priscilla, daughter of the reverend William Grace, who had issue Job, born in 1678;

* Churchwarden of Shenstone in 1715.

Thomas, in 1682; Joseph, in 1685-6; and, besides others, Priscilla, a daughter, living in 1710.

July 4, 1649, John Colier bought an estate of Mr. Roger Adams of Fotherley, to which purchase is witness Thomas Ruggeley. In June, 1667, Mr. John Colier was assessed to the tenth quarterly payment to the royal aid, for a part of the lands called Greenals, 1*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; also 6*s.* 1*d.* for lands in Fotherley. At the same time Thomas Colier, of Upper Stonhall, paid a small matter to the same aid. Benjamin Colier* possessed lands called Bulmores, after sold to Gilbert Walmsley, of Lichfield, esq. whose heirs enjoy them.

The family of the *Graces* long resided in Shenstone and Wood-end; the first I find of this branch was John, who, in the reign of James I. married Patience, daughter of John Meynel, a royalist captain of foot, whose son I take to be William Grace, A. M. who was ejected from the rectory of Reresby in Leicestershire. He was nearly related to Sheldon, bishop of London, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, to whom applications were made for him, but no relief could be obtained there, unless Mr. Grace would conform; which if he would yield to, great matters were promised, but this moved him not to act against his conscience. Some time after, it is said by Dr. Calamy, that "the archbishop recovered so much humanity as to take some care of two of his children."

The reverend Michael Walford, vicar of Shenstone, died in September 1665; and, as I do not find Mr. Grace mentioned before this period, I conclude he succeeded him as vicar, especially as the present Mr. Colier, who is descended from him,

* Living in the reign of James II.

agrees with me, that he succeeded Mr. Walford. If so, Mr. Grace must either have been favoured, or have conformed. Besides the tradition of the family, we are assured from the inscription upon his monument, that he was vicar of Shenstone.

In 1662 was passed the Act of Uniformity of Public Prayers, and the Administration of the Sacrament; by which every minister was obliged, on pain of losing all his ecclesiastical preferments, to conform to the worship of the Church of England, according to the new book of Common Prayer, before the Feast of St. Bartholomew next, from whence it was called the Bartholomew Act. Every clergyman was also compelled to sign a declaration of his unfeigned assent and consent to all and every thing contained and prescribed in and by the Book of Common Prayer; and all were obliged to sign a declaration, in which they promised to conform to the Liturgy of the Church of England, but likewise to renounce the solemn league and covenant, declaring it to be an unlawful oath, and imposed upon the subjects against the known laws and liberties of the kingdom. None must presume to consecrate and administer the holy sacrament of the Lord's Supper before they were ordained priests by episcopal ordination, on the penalty of one hundred pounds for every offence. Not submitting to this act of parliament Mr. William Grace was, with about two thousand other ministers, outed of his preferments. Bishop Sheldon pressed strongly the execution of this law, and therefore it may be imagined he would hear nothing in behalf of this his kinsman; yet it seems, from Dr. Calamy's account, something was done for his children, if he did not also procure for him this benefice. This William, A. M. married Joanna, daughter of — Woolley, esq. of Newton hall in the Thistles, Leicestershire, nearly

nearly related to the Sheldons, and had issue seven sons and three daughters; 1. Job; 2. Robert; 3. Jonathan; 4. Joseph; 5. Thomas; 6. Benjamin, born 1650-1; 7. William: the daughters were, 1. Joan, or Joanna, married the 27th of February, 1665, to Thomas Potte*, of Weeford Hall, son of Charles Potte, who died at Weeford, 1716, aged 93, by Elizabeth his wife, who died there in 1693; which Charles was descended from John Potte, witness to a deed of Robert Le Lynns in Shenstone, conveying lands in Alderthaw to William Newport, esq. in 1430, 8 Henry VI. Joanna Potte died March 4, and was buried the 6th, 1728-9, aged 91. Elizabeth, her daughter, married — Scott, and was buried here October 29, 1729, aged 64; 2. Priscilla, wife of Thomas Colier, of Lynne, who had several children; 3. Jemima Elizabeth, wife of Robert Greifbrook, of Shenstone, gentleman, had issue, Thomas†, son of Mr. William Grace by Mary his wife, who had a son, William, born 1683-4, who died 1685, and two daughters; Elizabeth, born 1681, and died in 1691; and Mary, who died in 1691, August 5. Mary, wife of Thomas, died in 1691, in which year he was churchwarden; he died at Wood end in March 1728, leaving Sarah, wife of Samuel Jackson of Austrey in Warwickshire; which Sarah survived her husband, and came to Wood-end, where she died about 1753. They had three daughters; Mary, Frances, and Jane, who all died unmarried. William or Jonathan, and Joseph, were eminent tradesmen in London (one of them, besides other children, had Thomas, living in 1767, in Leicestershire, gent.). These were the two

* Thomas Potte in 1667, then of Shenstone, paid 1s. 2d. to the royal aid quarterly. A meadow in Shenstone is named from him Potte's meadow.

† Thomas Grace, of Wood-end, paid 1s. to the poll-tax in 1692; his wife was daughter of — Allen, of Wood-end.

children

children of whom Dr. Calamy speaks, as before cited, page 92. And, indeed, Archbishop Sheldon took more than ordinary care of them, giving them a good education, and providing not a maintenance only for them, but trades in which, with his farther aid, they acquired fortunes.

Job and Robert were educated at the expence of Henry Grey, earl. of Kent, their relation on the mother's side, who also sent them to the university of Cambridge, and supported them there seven years, till they had taken their degrees of Master of Arts. Job was afterwards vicar of Watford in Northamptonshire, and treasurer of the cathedral church at Lichfield. He married, and had issue two daughters; Anne, who died unmarried, and Penelope, who married 1. to ——— Vyse, of Mulnameeze in Staffordshire, gent. but had no child by him; 2. to Thomas, second brother of Sir Robert Clerk, knight, of Watford, by whom she had two sons and one daughter; Frances, wife of ——— Booker, of the city of Peterborough in Northamptonshire. The sons were George, and Job, who was in trade, and died young. George was in holy orders, became chaplain to Sir Thomas Cave, bart. and died at Watford. Penelope Clerk, their mother, died at Peterborough in 1763. The reverend William Grace had also three daughters, who fell likewise into good hands, for lady Magdalen*, sister of Henry earl of Kent, in the time of their father's distress, took them under her protection either till her death, or till some provision was made for them, and married as aforesaid. This William, the vicar, was buried in this church November 10, 1699, in a good old age, being upwards of ninety, as appears from the inscription upon his tomb-stone, set up in me-

* Wife of John Brown, of Stretton in the Fields, co. Leic. and Derby.

mory of him by the reverend Job Grace, his son, vicar of Watford. Joanna, wife of William, was buried in the church, February 23, 1698-9, aged 52 years. William had a brother Oliver, who lived near Leicester, and had issue two daughters, married to two brothers named Muxlow, one of Swebston in Leicestershire, the other was a clergyman.

Robert Grace is called the vicar of this parish at the time of his marriage, January 4, 1672-3; which, no question, his father resigning for that purpose, the benefice was by the crown conferred upon him; and if he had possession of it before the death of archbishop Sheldon, which happened in 1667, in all likelihood he would, when the tenderness of his father's conscience would not allow him to keep it, procure it for him. In 1692, the reverend Robert Grace paid 4s. poll-tax for himself, his wife, and two children. He or his children sold lands, and a messuage, to the late John Dolphyn, esq. To him also belonged the estate called the Ashcrofts, near the village of Shenstone, by Elizabeth Sylvester his wife, daughter and coheir of Rowland Sylvester, of Shenstone. He had six children, Sylvester, Samuel, Elizabeth, Sarah, Hannah, and Mary, who died unmarried October 25, 1718, aged 20. Hannah was wife of Christopher Colier, gent. and, besides the children aforesaid, had a son, Christopher Samuel, baptized January 18, 1726-7, who died in the February following. Sarah was wife of John Carteret, of Sutton Coldfield, and had an only child, Mary, living in 1768, who married thrice; 1. to John Broohall, of Tilstock in Salop, and had issue Mary, deceased, Anne, and Martha; 2. to Vincent, brother of John Broomhall, by whom she had John, Vincent, and William; 3. to William Chetel. Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Robert Grace, was wife of Thomas Hayward, of Alkington hall in Salop, by whom she had four daughters, Grace, Elizabeth,

Elizabeth, Mary, and Sarah. Samuel, second son of Robert, died about 1714, aged 27, unmarried. Sylvester was of Birmingham, had many children, who all died young, except as follows; 1. Robert, who married and settled in America; 2. Sarah, wife of Henry Churchill, brother to John Churchill, of Hintz in Staffordshire, by whom she had one son, James; 3. Anne, wife of Edward Pool, who had three children; all dead. Sylvester Grace died in January 1757. Elizabeth died August 23, 1728, buried 31, surviving her husband, the reverend Robert Grace, somewhat more than a year; for he died September 25, 1727, aged 88, with the character of good man, and a truly worthy divine. His tomb-stone hath an inscription upon it, which confirms his being vicar 58 years.

At the mansion-house now belonging to Mr. Houghton of Hintz, and which formerly was much more considerable, resided a family of some character, named *Greisbrook*. They are spoken of in the register-book in 1580, and might have been found before this date if any earlier records of this place could be found. They were possessed of much land here, particularly that named *The Statfolds* and *Littlefield*, which were purchased by John Rawlins, esq. of Lichfield. After his death this mansion, with these and other lands, passed to the late John Houghton, esq. in right of his wife, grand-daughter of the said Mr. Rawlins, who now possesses them.

Greisbrook owned part of the Bull-moor fields, which became afterwards the property of Edward Smith, gent. Also land sold to — Allop, and from him conveyed to Thomas Bedle. A meadow, formerly part of the common field, called Broad Meadow, which came into the hands of the Latimers and Creswells of this parish; from them to the late Mr. Dolphyn, and to the present Mr. Dolphyn; likewise a piece of the Bull-

moors, afterwards the estate of — Higgins, after of Benjamin Colier, and from him by purchase to Gilbert Walmesley, of Lichfield, esq. and now in his heirs.

Greisbrook, whence the family had their name, is a manor in Yorkshire, which, in the reign of king Henry III. was in the great house of Mowbray, of whom the Greisbrooks held their lands. Roger de Greisbrook (t. Henry II.) is mentioned as holding of the fee of Alice, countess of Augie, or Ewe, daughter of William de Albiney earl of Arundel, by queen Alice, relict of king Henry I.

Thomas Greisbrook and Elizabeth his wife had, besides other children, a daughter Margery, born in November, 1580; the same month died Elizabeth his wife; and in July, 1582, their daughter. Richard Greisbrook, son of Robert, was baptized September 20, 1585.

Rowland Greisbrook and Isabel Yardley were married in April, 1598; they had Thomas, who died young, Robert, and four daughters; Grace, Penelope, Anne, and Elizabeth. Robert had a daughter, Susanna, born in 1756. Robert Greisbrook*, gent. and Jemima, daughter of Mr. William Grace, were married on July 8, and had issue, 1. William, baptized May 6, 1673; 2. Robert, born 1674, and died in 1681; 3. John, born in February 1681; 5. Robert; and five daughters; 1. Elizabeth, born in 1676, and died in 1729; 2. Joan, born in 1679; 3. Jemima, born in 1685-6; 4. Sarah, born in 1693, and died in 1699; 5. Anne, who died in February 1698-9.

John Walton, of Bagington, and Margery Greisbrook, were married August 28, 1682. Thomas Cramp and Sarah Greisbrook were married January 19, 1721-2. Robert married

* He paid four shillings to the poll-tax for himself, wife, and two children.

Elizabeth, daughter of — Grosvenor, of Wolverhampton, or of Codfall, near it, but died without issue in 1727. Jemima, daughter of Mr. Grace, and wife of Robert Greisbrook * the elder, died in 1724, aged 77.

In 1655 Robert Greisbrook was witness to a covenant of marriage between Ralph Thickbroom and Margaret Cook, of Little Hay. In 1667 he paid 1s. 4d. to the quarterly royal aid; and 3d. ob. for land of Mr. Floyer.

Thomas Cramp and Sarah Greisbrook had four children; Greisbrook, and three daughters, Sarah, Jemima, and Ruema, the latter living in 1768 unmarried; the two eldest daughters married and had issue, but both are dead. Greisbrook Cramp was heir to his uncle Robert, is a farmer at Cowerne in Herefordshire, and by — his wife, daughter of — Darlaston, of Ilford in Staffordshire, hath two sons. Sarah Griesbrook secondly married John Lea, and had Dorothy, Jane, and Elizabeth.

In the mansion called *Greenballs*, now Mr. Dolphin's, lived a gentleman named Wollaston, or Woollerston, most likely from a village of this name in Staffordshire.

A noted antiquary †, who speaks with severity of many families in this county, has these words: "Several of the gentry would take it ill to be wrote less than esquires, of which he mentions alderman Wollaston's son at Walsal, and William Wollaston of Chebfey and Oucote, or Oncoat Grange." To this we shall make no reply, but let the following circumstances speak for themselves. Thomas Wollaston, esq. was a person of figure in the reign of Henry VII. in the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. and some years after he had the office of keeper of the

* Robert Greisbrook the elder died in 1718.

† Simon Degge, ann. 1673.

outwoods, called Lyndridge woods, in the county of Warwick, by a grant from the crown, and so continued to the 15th or 16th of Henry VIII. In 1565 we find William Wollaston* seated at Shenstone, but how much sooner is not known. That year John his son by Elizabeth his wife was baptized in September, and died 1666; also Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Wollaston, gent. by his wife Sabina, was buried February 26.

William Wollaston, gent. died January 7, 1 James I. seised of Trecot, a grange and mill in Overpenne, Caldwalds, land in Overton, Wathill or Otehill, in Tressful, Grange or Granfield, in Halesowen in Salop, which he left to Hugh his son, then fifty years old; he, at his decease in 7 James I. left them to Edward his son and heir, aged 12.

William of Trecot, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, married a daughter to John Barnsley, of Tressful, esq. younger brother of — Barnsley in Worcestershire, who had issue by him both sons and daughters. In the reigns of king Charles I. and king Charles II. — Wollaston, esq. had a seat in Walsal, and John had a daughter Blanch, wife of John second son of Richard Pyott, of Strethey, esq. by Mary daughter of Sir William Skeffington, of Fisherwick, knight.

In 1767 was born Edward, son of William and Elizabeth Wollaston, who died in 1685. Joseph, their son, was born in 1669, and died in 1697; and Elizabeth their daughter was born in 1671. Thomas Wollaston, gent. died at Shenstone in April 1674, who seems to be father of William, who also died in 1691-2; as did Elizabeth his wife in 1692. Thomas, of St. Mary's parish in Lichfield, was buried at Shenstone the 19th of April, 1712; and William, from the same place, in 1738;

* In 1667 he paid for part of Greenhalls estate one shilling and nine-pence.

also

also Francis Wollaston, gent. of Birmingham, in 1752, who had purchased Billesley manor in Yardley in Worcestershire, of — Byffel, gent. and Mr. Samuel Wollaston, of Lichfield, in 1755, with another of the family in 1756.

Wollaston Pym, esq. an Hertfordshire gentleman, now of Willoughbridge in Staffordshire, lately lieutenant-colonel of the 64th regiment of foot, was of the same family by his mother, which gentleman sometime lived in Upper Stonhall, and has a son Wollaston, born in 1766, and two daughters.

The father of the famous William Wollaston settled at Shenstone, probably soon after the troubles ceased by the Restoration of king Charles II; though Colton Clanford in Staffordshire was before his residence. At this time his fortune was inconsiderable, but descended of an antient and worthy family seated at Colton Clanford; this was the elder branch. The head of the second line was of Oncoat in Staffordshire, and afterwards removed to Shenton in Leicestershire. The grandfather of this eminent person had a handsome fortune, real and personal, with an office of 700 l. per annum. William was born in 1659, March 26, at Colton; and in 1668 went to a Latin school then newly opened at Shenstone, the residence of his father, where continuing two years, or thereabouts, he was then sent to Lichfield, and at sixteen years old went to Sydney college, Cambridge, June 8, 1674. In 1681 his parents had left Shenstone, for we find that he paid them a visit some time after Michaelmas that year at Bloxwick, where they then lived. On the 19th of August, 1688, his relation at Shenstone (cousin german to his father), dying without male issue, made him his heir to an ample estate.

In 1689, November 26, he married Catherine, daughter of Sir Nicholas Charlton, knight, and citizen of London; she died

died July 21, 1720. In 1722, he published his noted performance called, "The Religion of Nature delineated." He died October 29, 1724, and was buried near his wife at Font-borough Magna.

William Warburton, bishop of Gloucester, an able writer, attacked this work, as did Conyers Middleton, D. D. of Cambridge, a man of an artful address, who commended it, and is allowed to have been a man of wit and learning. The late lord viscount Bolingbroke condemns his system as a strange theism.

Whatever were their opinions of this piece, these several circumstances shew the excellence of it, which yet remains unhurt.

This great author had eleven children, of which four died before him, and four were of Sydney college, Cambridge. William the eldest son represented the borough of Ipswich in parliament during the last parliament of king George II. Richard Wollaston, esq. was one of those gentlemen who voted in 1702-3 against agreeing to the Lords' amendment in the clause of an act, which was farther to secure the succession of the crown in the house of Hanover.

The Wollastons owned an estate in Fotherley.

We find a gentleman settled here named *Wolferstan*, unquestionably a branch of the antient family long seated at Stafford in Staffordshire, in the reign of king Charles II.

The *Greenballs* came from a village so named, near Norton upon Trent, Staffordshire, which was by Thomas de Cadurcis, or Chaworth, given to the abbey de Bello Capite (Beauchief) in Derbyshire; and had a considerable estate in Shenstone, of which several lands carry their name. Some of these lands were the Hardenbrooks, a piece of ground near the Church-hill, towards the Birmingham road, Balls Croft, and the two
Green-

Greenhalls near it, Balls meadow on the road to the park, five or six pieces near Pindlefields on the Tamworth road, with several others near their mansion. In the reign of queen Elizabeth Rowland Greenhall had a son Rowland, who by Catherine his wife, daughter of Rowland Rudding of Lynne, had a daughter Alice, born 1608. Robert, Rowland, Simon, who lived at Swynfen*, and had issue by Alice his wife, Simon, buried 1657, with his mother; and William of Swynfen, whose wife Cecily died in 1657. Robert of Shenstone had issue Anne, born 1657.

Rowland Greenhall married Sarah Sharpling in 1657, and had by her three sons and four daughters; Robert, John, Joseph, Elizabeth, Sarah, born 1660-1; Mary, born 1665-6, and Anne, born 1674; all which daughters were married. Robert was a distiller, and settled in the city of Worcester; he died without issue. John was killed by an accidental hurt from an harrow, and died without issue. Joseph was heir to his brothers, and sold a good part of the remaining estate to the late John Dolphyn, esq.

Mr. Rowland Smyth lived in this same mansion of the Greenhalls, and was the gentleman who gave one of the bells.

The late Mrs. Crisp lived here till her death, in November 1766, aged near 83.

Mr. William Dufour, a native of France, now holds the same house of John Dolphyn, esq.

We may not here omit to mention, that there lately resided in this village, at the house wherein Mrs. Colier now dwells, a genteel family named Parkhurst, of which was John, bishop of Norwich in 1560, 2 Elizabeth, and rector of Bishop's Cleve

* He died at Erdington in 1680, and was buried at Shenstone.

in Gloucestershire, born at Guildford in Surrey, son of George Parkhurst, esq. Robert of Shenstone, in 1761, was third son of Dormer Parkhurst, of Epfom in the county of Surrey, and of Catesby in Northamptonshire. He was when a youth page to her royal highness the princess of Wales, mother of his present majesty, thence removed to a lieutenancy of marines, and was in the sea service some time; he became after this a cornet of horse, and shortly after captain in general Stuart's regiment of foot, in which capacity he fought at the glorious battle of Minden, when the infantry, unaided by the cavalry, defeated the French army, and was sorely hurt by a musket ball in the forehead, and by a blow from the but-end of a musket. He was conveyed out of the battle, wounded, and insensible. As soon as capable he returned to England; his health being in some measure restored, he returned to his duty, but the fatigues soon overset him, and he was necessitated to retire, as he did, to Shenstone. The injuries he received in the above engagement took him off in 1764, at Bristol Hot Wells, about a week after he got thither. He was a man of a military cast, of a generous and noble mind, with a becoming spirit; to which we may add, great vivacity and cheerfulness; which, aided by a courtly education, a knowledge of the world, and an acquaintance with persons of great figure, rendered him a most agreeable companion. He married Ann Ogle Guyther, born at Annapolis in Maryland, daughter of ——— Guyther, esq. brother to the governor of St. Christopher's of that name, by whom he had issue, George, aged 9, 1768; Charles, born in April 1762; and Anne, born in September 1763; she is yet living, and unmarried.

The

The family of *Huggeson*, or *Higson*, had a house and lands in the village, who seem to have had their name from a manor in the parish of Chartley in Staffordshire, the estate of earl Ferrers, called Hicson. In 1598 George Higgesson was of this place, who had William * that died in 1609, as did Barbara Higson in 1675. Humphry Land of Walsal, and Elizabeth Higson of Shenstone, were married in 1603, January 30. In this name, besides other estates, were the Bullmoors, which before were the lands of the Greifbrooks, and now in the Walmfleys of Lichfield.

Higgesson's land and messuage came to the *Smyths*, of which line was Henry, whose son Henry married a person of some fortune, — daughter of — Jenkynson, of Derbyshire (who, surviving her husband Mr. Smith, married to her second husband Walter Astley, gent. son of — Astley, esq. of Tamhorne near Fisherwicke, Staffordshire). By Henry † Smith she had, besides other children, Paul. This Henry is said to have built the present mansion at the time of his marriage as abovesaid, where Mrs. Jane Fidgeon now lives.

Paul was an attorney, and lived both at Stafford and Shenstone. He married thrice; by his first wife he had issue Edward, and several daughters; I have not learned who his second wife was; the last was Sarah, relict of — Edensory, of Birmingham, eldest sister of John Dolphyn, of Shenstone, esq. which Sarah, outliving the said Paul Smyth, died in 1730, and was buried at Shenstone; her husband was buried at Stafford; by these two wives Paul Smyth had no children. Edward married a wife

* Father of Jane, born in 1579.

† Henry Smyth seems to have had two wives, for the register says, Anne, daughter of Henry and Dorothy Smyth, was born in 1672; and Henry, son of Henry and Catharine, in 1678, who died the same year.

from Uttoxeter, and had issue only Edward, who died young. Edward, who was also an attorney at law in Stafford, dying without issue, left his estate at Shenstone, part in the tenure of Mr. Elde and Mrs. Fidgeon, and the other part of Robert Ingram, to his wife, who demised them to her nephew Samuel Bardfley of Tamworth, attorney at law, whose widow still possesses these lands.

The *Astleys* have long lived in this place, and are noted for being one of the most antient houses who possessed lands in Staffordshire. Roger Astley was of Shenstone in the reign of queen Elizabeth, in 1584, had a daughter Alice, and died in 1602. In 1599 Richard Astley and Elizabeth Collins were married here. In 1605 John (whom I look upon as son of Roger, and brother of Richard and Alice,) married Elizabeth Hodgetts. John Black married Elizabeth Astley in 1606. Susanna Astley died in 1658; Margaret in 1679. Thomas and Ann Astley had a son Thomas born in 1684. This family gave name to a meadow near Shenstone village, to this time termed Astley's meadow. Walter Astley lived part of his days in a messuage at Fotherly, or Wood-end, formerly the estate of William Priest, afterwards this Walter's; from him it passed to — Thornton and Wigan; and in 1767 to William Tenant, esq. lord of this manor. This Walter Astley died at Cannock in 1730, and was buried here; as was Dorothy his wife in 1729, who, as we before noted, was relict of Henry, and mother of Paul Smyth, of Shenstone, attorney at law. Lands, now John Marlow's, were the property of Walter Astley, and others were left by him to his wife's friends.

Daniel

Daniel Skynner, gent. a goldsmith of London, citizen and alderman of the same place, retiring from business, came to this village, and lived in the house now in the tenure of Mrs. Jane Fidgeon. By his wife, —, daughter of — Wilton of Lichfield, he had several children, who all died young. In 1734 died this gentleman's mother; in 1751 Sarah his wife; in 1753 this Mr. Skinner himself; and were all buried at Shenstone: Charles Howard, of Lichfield, gent. was his nephew and heir.

In this place resided a good family named *Everard*, but I am not satisfied where they lived, but suppose in the village, and therefore have chosen to speak of them before I proceed farther.

The elder branch was seated in Leicestershire, of which we have this descent: Richard Everard, of Leicestershire, had a son Richard, who took to wife Joyce, daughter of — Langham, of Gopshall, and had issue, 1. Robert, of Leicestershire; and 2. William, who had issue; 3. George; 4. Thomas. Robert settled at Shenstone (living in the reign of queen Elizabeth, 1583), and married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Wolfrestan, of Wyford or Weeford, esq. by whom he had issue, 1. Richard, who took to wife Jane, daughter and heir of Richard Waterton, of Lincolnshire, esq. and had by her Richard, aged 16, in 1583; 2. Humphry, of Whittington and Shenstone, who, on examination of the heralds at arms in their visitation through the county of Stafford in the year 1583, was allowed to be a gentleman by birth, and to have good right to the coat borne by the family with difference. His wife was Anne, daughter and heir of Richard Clarkson, or Le Clerk, esq. of Whittington, by whom he had children; Edward, John, and Michael; also four daughters, Frances, Catharine, Alice, and Joanna: the third son of Robert Everard and Margaret Wolverstan was

Sampson; 4. John; and four daughters; 1. Matilda, wife of Richard; 2. Joyce, wife of Thomas Barford, by whom she had Thomas; 3. Mary, married to Sir Edmund Brudenel, knt. 4. Margaret, wife of Sampson Wolverstan, esq.

Arms of Everard; Argent, on a chevron Gules, three mullets Sable, between three mullets. Of the Shenstone line the same, with six points; of the second, a crescent for difference.

About the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign and in the reign of king James I. we find a gentleman at Shenstone named *Potter*.

Simon Potter, gent. by Barbara his wife, had a daughter Mary, born here in 1608; a son Simon born in 1609, but we find no more of this name, owing to the deficiency of the parish records.

At the house belonging to Samuel Beardsley, and in the holding of Jane Fidgeon, gentlewoman, formerly lived a family of some note, named *James*. Edward James, of this place, by Frances his wife, had a son William Venables, born in the year 1702, on the 19th of June, and died in 1704; also Robert, born August 15, 1703, a physician, and famous for his medicine called Dr. James's Fever Powder. Edward and Frances had issue likewise a son Stafford, attorney at law, who resided lately at Brewood in Staffordshire, who had two sons, both under the care of the late Thomas Sanders, of Stourbridge in Worcestershire, chemist and apothecary.

To the freeholders or other inhabitants of Shenstone village appertains a large field, called the Broad-meadow, upon which several of the poor turn their cattle without expence, and at their pleasure. This field was more extensive till encroachments were made, and but a few years since a part of it was annexed to Mullener's farm; also a part of it was in the families of

Greif-

Greifbrook, Latimer, and Creswell, now in the possession of Mr. Dolphyn.

At a little distance from the church is a water called *St. John's well*, from the saint to whom the church is dedicated. This well was looked upon as sacred from the miracles or cures performed with the water of it on St. John the Baptist's day. For this reason, in the times of Popish superstition, many people, and these not of the common sort only, placed a sanctity in them, brought alms and offerings to them, and made vows at them. This superstitious devotion was named Well-worship, and, though used by the people, was not approved of by the heads of the church, being strictly prohibited in several English councils in the days of king Edgar and Canute, and in a council held in London under Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 1102. In some places within this county the custom continues, or hath not long been disused, of adorning such wells with boughs and flowers upon Holy Thursday especially, as was usual also at all Gospel-places, whether wells, trees, or hills. Upon such occasions the people frequently diverted themselves with cakes and ale, musick and dancing, with other like sports and amusements; which were innocent enough, and tolerable in comparison of what had formerly been practised.

Near St. John's well stands a delightful mansion in the holding of Mr. Martin Wood, but the property of Thomas Biddulph, of Whitacre in Warwickshire, whose father built it, except the additions erected by Mr. Gisborn, who held it prior to Mr. Wood. In the village is likewise a neat and pleasant house, fit for a private gentleman, the property of Mr. John Rawlins, in right of his wife Dorothy, and of her sister Elizabeth Lea, daughters of John Lea of Shenstone; but the situation of this is far inferior to that of Thomas Biddulph.

A S H C R O F T S.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile from the church is a mansion called *The Ashcrofts*. The lands near it were the estate of the *Brandreth* family, who most likely purchased it from the *Rugeleys*. *William Sylvester* * afterwards possessed it, of which family *Rowland Sylvester* passed it to his daughter *Elizabeth*, wife of the reverend *Robert Grace*, which *Elizabeth* and *Sarah* her sister were daughters and coheirs of the said *Rowland*, son of *Rowland*, son of *Roger Sylvester*, of a family antient as any in the parish, and several of them were people in good circumstances.

Sarah, daughter and coheir of *Rowland Sylvester* of the *Ashcrofts*, was wife of — *Sheldon*, attorney at law, of *Beoley* in *Worcestershire*, whose issue were *John*, and *Sarah*, wife of — *Annesley*, of *Fradley* in *Staffordshire*, who had by her *James*, living in 1768; and *Elizabeth*, wife of — *Nuthal*, of *Alreways*. Of *Mr. John Sheldon* and *Mr. Sylvester Grace* were purchased the house where *Mrs. Graciana Colyere* now lives, and near twenty acres of land lying near it, by the late *Hannah*, wife of *Christopher Colyere*, gent. of which land the present *Mr. John Cooke*, of *Woodend*, purchased 13 acres. To the aforesaid *Sarah Sheldon* belonged land named *Kings Pieces*, which, in the 4th year of the reign of king *Charles I.* were *Roger Sylvester's*, son of *William* of the *Ashcrofts* in 1605, who died there in 1610. These *Kings*

* *William Sylvester* of the *Ashcrofts* died in 1610-11.

Pieces, or part of them, were the property of John Lea, and very lately were in his heirs.

The Ashcrofts coming into the hands of Sylvester, son of Robert Grace, he transferred his right in them to Edward *Adcock*, whose son Edward enjoys this estate, with a small new house erected by his late father, who took down a large old one, which was half timber, in the old model of building, but with additional land purchased a few years since of ——— Hayes, of Lichfield, gent. who had it of ——— Waryng, of Hilltop near Edjial hall. The whole is now near 90 acres of land.

In the reign of king Charles II. I find a gentleman here, but know not whence he came; his name Francis Steward, who, by Elizabeth his wife, had issue Mary born in 1683, and Anne born in 1685. Nor can we learn any thing farther of him.

W O O D E N D.

P A R K H A L L.

Alexander Ward, in the reign of Charles I. purchased a part of the old park of James Elphinston lord Balmerino, of North Britain, ancestor of the unhappy lord who was in the late rebellion in the reign of George II, and for that crime was attainted and beheaded. Alexander Ward, and ——— Lake, dividing the old inclosure, made each of them a park. Ward's land extended itself to the fold-yard adjoining to Shenstone Park House, and so on towards Woodend, where at the lodge he built himself a mansion.

Whether

Whether the present house was of his building is uncertain, but most likely it was, having such an antique appearance; if so, it was unquestionably much larger, though there remain yet the servants' hall, a large parlour, and some rooms, having some of the old-fashioned wainscot hanging upon them. The house stands in the way to Woodend, upon the public road leading to Birmingham, half a mile from Shenstone church, and hath before it a court surrounded with an high brick wall, full of yews, laurel trees, and such like evergreens.

In the years 1640, 1641, and 1642, Ward's park was stocked with deer, as reported by the commissioners who gave an account of the parks in Staffordshire. This Alexander Ward had issue, as I think, 1. Thomas; 2. Alexander; 3. Henry; and probably others. Henry lived some time at Freeford, near Lichfield, and was buried at Shenstone, November 18, 1661, aged 70. Alexander lived also at Freeford, and was buried here in 1663, aged 75, having been thrice head bailiff of Lichfield. He had issue 19 children by one wife; 1. Alexander; 2. Thomas, of Fotherley, who, by Alice * his wife, had Alexander, born in 1662, and died in 1666; John, who died in 1665; and others. I find also Thomas Ward, of Woodend Hall, or Park Hall, who, by Anne his wife, had issue Thomas, born 1665; Alexander, Richard, Anne, Elizabeth, and Mary, wife of William Moss of Lichfield. Thomas Ward, gent. in 1667 paid 11. 11s. 6d. to the quarterly assessment of the royal aid. In 1692, either this Thomas, or his son Thomas, paid for himself and wife to the poll-tax 2s. In 1659 he was churchwarden, and died in 1693; Thomas, his son, died in 1709-10, and was termed a gentleman. Alexander, by Elizabeth his wife, had

* She died in 1666.

issue

issue, 1. Thomas, born 1683; 2. Alexander, born 1684, who soon after died; also daughters, of which one was Elizabeth. In 1699 died Elizabeth, wife of this Alexander Ward; and Alexander in 1701 was found dead, seated in a chair at Tamworth, as supposed of an apoplexy, and to this day it is spoken of as somewhat extraordinary, that to some of the poor at his funeral, which was large, was given bread to the amount of six or eight loaves each person; such a dole of bread was also distributed to the poor at the interment of his wife. Thomas Ward, called as above *The Gentleman*, or more frequently by the name of *Noble Clove* (from his extreme fondness for clove water), succeeded his father in the Wood-end estate, but his excesses brought on his death (as we noted) in 1609-10. Dying without issue, what remained of the estate, which is said to have been in a great measure acquired by the family in the troublesome days of King Charles I, from the oppressed Royalists, passed to — Ward, of Banbury in Warwickshire, who sold it to Mr. Matthews.

Of the Wards of Shenstone Park Hall we know little more than that Alexander first mentioned was a purchaser of lands in Radley Moor, and in 1648 sold lands in the Broad Field and Old Fields, to which were witnesses Henry Ward and Thomas Rugeley; also that the same, or rather Alexander of Freeford, his son, 12 Charles II. was an evidence to the selling of a tenement with lands in Little Hay to Rowland Alfop, which had been sold not long before by the two lords of the manor; and again, with Thomas Ward, witness to a contract for a sum of money paid by Rowland Alfop to Roger Walker, and Edmund Wharton, both of Moseley, who had some possessions in Little Hay, 13 Charles II. Thomas was witness in 1671 to a contract of Rowland Alfop, conveying an estate to Thomas Alfop

his son. In 1675 Thomas Ward, of Shenstone Park Hall, passed over lands called Upper Hurleys, lying near to Careless's piece, with others in the park on lease to Thomas Alsop and Richard Allen of Little Hay. In 1677 Thomas Ward, of Shenstone, gent. was trustee for the dower of Mary daughter of Henry Sedgewick, of Wild-green, gent. who married James Adams of Fotherley. In 1686-7 Alexander, Thomas, and Anne Ward, were witnesses to the will of Rowland Alsop of Shenstone. In 1689 Thomas was one of the persons who managed for the heirs of the said person deceased. In 1671 Richard and Dorothy Ward witnessed a deed of — Adams of Fotherley, to Dorothy Sedgewick of Little Aston. In 1682 Anne and Alexander Ward were evidences to deeds of — Adams to Joseph Hall of Aston Parva. In 1688 Alexander Ward, gent. entered, with others, into an obligation, that Rowland Ward of Aldrich, and John of Whittington, should levy a fine for lands to Thurstan Southern of Elmhurst, Henry Jackson of Wall, and Alexander Ward. Richard Ward, about the reign of queen Anne, was evidence to a bond of Jac. Adams of Fotherley for money due to Richard Gretton of Sandford-street in Lichfield; and likewise to his purchase of two burgage houses from the said Richard Gretton.

Matthew, of Morecoat hall in the parish of Berkswell, Warwickshire, who purchased — Ward's estate in Shenstone, had issue, as I think, one son and two daughters; the son succeeding settled in the city of Worcester, with his mother and two relations, daughters of — Moseley, of Aftbury in Shropshire, gent. This Mr. Matthews is charged with putting an end to his life by shooting himself, but several circumstances seemed to indicate that he was taken off; besides, that it was supposed a will was forged in favour of the mother and the two relations
 afore-

aforesaid, one of which about that time married an officer in the army. — Moseley and the heir went to law with the parties suspected, and recovered the estates. The lives of the parties suspected were in danger, and they escaped by bringing many evidences to prove, that the deceased was greatly inclined to melancholy, and was therefore, unquestionably, his own executioner. Sarah Matthews had the estate at Wood-end, and either allowed — Moseley a valuable consideration in right of his wife, deceased, who, as I am told, was sister to the gentleman who was shot, and to Sarah Matthews, which Sarah resided at the Hall-house with her tenant John Bott, or at the house now possessed by John Cook, where she built apartments for that purpose. She sold the estates in Shenstone to Samuel Hill, of Shenstone Park, esq. who, besides the purchase-money, allowed an annuity to Mr. Moseley till his decease, which happened in 1757 only, a few months before Mr. Hill's. Sarah Matthews died unmarried, and was buried at Hampton on the Hill in Warwickshire.

— Matthew was son of John Matthew, descended of Henry, alive in the reign of king Charles I. who was great grandson of George, who was found to be twelve years old 13 Henry VII. living in 1538 (Henry VIII.) son of George and Alice his wife, who had issue four more sons and two daughters, which George was son and heir of John Matthew, skinner, and sheriff of the city of Coventry, who, in the reign of Edward IV. married the daughter and heir of — Del Botry, with whom he had the manor of Morecote in Warwickshire, which John bore for his coat of arms, Sable, a Lion rampant, Argent, and was son of George Mathew of Wales.

Upon the decease of Samuel Hill, esq. these estates, now in the tenure of John Cook and John Bott, with a small part of Joseph Jobbern's farm, of Wood-end, came to Samuel Egerton,

of Tatton-park in Cheshire, esq. nephew and heir to the said Samuel Hill; likewise a fine estate lying on the river Mersey in Lancashire, valued at more than four thousand pounds per annum, and Fisherwick park near Whittington in Staffordshire, a manor formerly (24 Edward I.) held of the bishop of Lichfield by Roger Durdent. Walter Durdent, becoming bishop of the same see, settled it on his own family; and 4 Edward II. Nicholas Durdent was lord of it. The family of Skeffington had it from the time of king Henry VIII. if not earlier. In king George the Second's reign it was sold by lord viscount Massareen, or his heirs, to Samuel Swynfen, of Swynfen near Shenstone, esq. who soon after passed it to Samuel Hill, of Shenstone-park, esq. on whose decease, Samuel Egerton, of Tatton, esq. inherited it, who sold it to Samuel Swynfen, of Swynfen, esq. the former purchaser, who, in a little time after, passed it to the guardians of the right honourable the earl of Donegal in Ireland, the present possessor.

Samuel Egerton, esq. had other lands from his uncle; as a farm near Tamworth, which he sold to Samuel Swynfen, the present possessor. Bole Hall, originally a member of Amington, now a member in the parish of Tamworth, which, in the reign of Richard II. was in Sir John de Clinters, of Maxtock in Warwickshire. In the reign of Henry VI. Edmund Montfort had it, but returning to the Clintons, Edward lord Clinton and Say, in the 29th year of the reign of Henry VIII. conveyed it to James Levison, whose daughter had it in marriage with Walter Aston. His grandson Sir Walter, knight and baronet, passed it to William Anson, of whom William Cumberford of Tamworth, and Ann his wife, had it in the 13th year of the reign of James I. In latter times the honourable and reverend Richard Hill purchased

chased it*, who settled the same upon Samuel Hill his nephew, on whose decease it came to Samuel Egerton, who lately sold Bole Hall and the lands thereto appertaining to the right honourable George lord viscount Townshend, late lord lieutenant of Ireland. Many other good estates † Mr. Egerton enjoyed, beside which, a curious library and a large personalty were divided between him and his two sisters, of whose family we shall now speak.

EGERTON FAMILY.

Hugh de Abrincis, surnamed Lupus, second earl of Chester after the Conquest (so termed, not because it was made over this nation, but over king Harold, as appears from king William the First's claim, and his offer to decide his right by single combat), son of Richard de Goz viscount de Avranches in Normandy by Margaret his wife, half sister by the mother to William I. had in his train a Norman officer of note, named Hugh, created one of his parliamentary barons in the county palatine of Chester, by that great authority with which his uncle had invested him, and bore thenceforward the style and title of baron de Malopassu (Malpas). This lord Hugh left Robert Fitz Hugh his son lord Malpas, who in the survey begun in the 14th year of the reign of William I. and finished in the

* I am informed that Samuel Hill, esq. purchased it, which seems most likely, as Samuel Egerton had it.

† As Hill-Hall in Sutton Colefield.

20th year of the said reign, called Domes-day book *, is said to have held by military service under Hugh Lupus the following lordships; Beddefeld, Burwardeston, Hardingbury, Depenbeche, now called Malpas, Tilleston, Cuffeton, Eghe, Calmundelei, Hanton, Lavoithedon, Dockington, Celelea, Broffe, Orëton, Cuntiton, Shoclicke, Tufigham, Bichele, Bicerton, Burwardeston fold by the earls of Edwyn and Morcar, Raventhell, Creuhale, Tidulston, Buiston, Boleberie, Teverton, Sporetan, Penretone, Sudtone, Buttelege, Croverthe or Coeneche. So that if what is asserted be just, that the Normans succeeded the Saxon gerefa's or chiefs of the rural tythings in the same power, except that William I. made this office of superiority hereditary, Hugh lord Malpas or Robert Fitzroy must have possessed at least three honours; yet, as we before intimated, they seem to have sitten only as barons in those conventions of estates that were held in the palatinate of Chester, then comprehending some part of Wales.

In these days we conjecture, that every tything was an honour, and consisted of ten manors, and that every tything (after this superiority became hereditary) constituted one barony or honour. Then the chiefs from Norman appellatives were called barons and feignours, contractedly fires, and such their estates, feignories, baronies, or honours. A necessary qualification for one that held a parliamentary barony was, that he should possess thirteen knights' fees and a half, or a fourth part of a fee as some; each of these *feoda* or fees valued at 20l. *per ann.* at least, a sum equal to 140l. *per ann.* in the reign of Henry VII. or Henry VIII. and to 300l yearly, or, as others, 500l. yearly in George the Third's reign; *i. e.* 20l. *per ann.* would at that time purchase

* Lib. de Domesday in Cheshire.

as much corn or other necessaries of life as the largest of those sums would in our days, if not in king William the Third's. Robert Fitz Hugh dying without issue male, the barony of Malpas, with the lordship of Calmadelei (Cholmley), &c. descended to Lettice his daughter, wife of Richard de Belward, whose son or grandson William de Belward married Beatrix, daughter of Hugh Kevilioch, fifth earl of Chester, and coheir to her brother Randal, earl of Chester, which William, in right of his mother, was baron of Malpas, though it is said by some, that this man had only half the barony; but it is agreed by Sir William Dugdale and other antiquaries, that he left issue three sons, David, Robert, and Richard; so Collins * says. A MS. account of Cheshire, in my possession, taken from a curious antiquary, says, that Beatrix was sister to Hugh Kevilioch earl of Chester, daughter of Radulph de Gernon, and that she married Radaulf (Ralph) baron de Malopassu, by whom she had Margaret her daughter and heir, wife of David de Belward, called Le Clerc, from his having been clerk or secretary to the earl of Chester; he succeeding his father at Malpas, was also named David de Malpas, and, in the 36th year of the reign of Henry III. was high sheriff of Cheshire. This David, as Collins observes, left issue three sons, of which Philip, the second, feating himself at Egerton, left that surname to his posterity, from whom the family of Egerton is descended, whereof the present duke of Bridgewater is derived.

The MS. aforesaid adds, that David Clerc (who, in the 37th year of the reign of king Henry III. held three fees under the earl of Chester) had a second son named Philip Gough de

* In title of earl Cholmley, 4to edition.

Malpas, who married Catharine, sister of Richard de Hurlton, and had issue David de Egerton, of whom descended Thomas Egerton, lord chancellor of England in the reign of James I. I observe here, that this David, in the reign of Henry III. held but three knights' fees, which might arise from some of the family's being concerned in the troubles of those days, occasioned by Stephen's seizing the crown when the three competitors, king Stephen, Maud the Empress, and king Henry II. treated the barons that opposed them as rebels, who before, under the feudal rights were so many little princes: much of the lands being forfeited to the several contending sovereigns, as each prevailed they with them rewarded their respective adherents. Hence arose the old and new feoffments, which differed in the extent and portion of lands, and gave rise to the distinction of the greater and lesser barons; or the estates of the family might be divided among several heirs, as we read indeed the barony was.

Sir Richard Egerton, knight, in the reign of Henry VIII. had issue Sir Thomas, a man excellently well read in the common laws of England, made solicitor-general to queen Elizabeth in 1583; lord-keeper of the great-seal in 1596; and in 1603, in the reign of James I. advanced to the dignity of a baron of this realm by the title of lord Ellesmere, in the county of Salop, on the 3d of May, 1603*, and made lord chancellor of England; and November 7, 1616 (14 James I.), viscount Brackley, of the county of Northampton, his second and only son, by Elizabeth his first wife, daughter of Thomas Ravenscroft, of Bretton in Flintshire, was John viscount Brackley, who, in 1617, on the 27th of May, was advanced to the title and dignity of

* 21 July, was created a baron at Hampton-court.

earl of Bridgewater, in the county of Somerfet, a man of incomparable parts, both natural and acquired, a profound scholar, and a good christian. He married Frances, second daughter of Ferdinand baron Stanley, Strange of Knocton, of the Isle of Man, and earl of Derby, and had issue by her John, second earl of Bridgewater of this line, who, marrying Elizabeth daughter of William Cavendish, duke of Newcastle and earl Ogle, the famous general of Charles I. in the North of England during the Civil Wars, had issue by her a third son, Thomas*, seated at Tatton in Cheshire, who, by Esther his wife, daughter of Sir John Bushby, of Addington in Buckinghamshire, knight, had issue John Egerton (born February 12, 1679), whose son and heir was John of Tatton (1735), esq. He had issue that survived him by — Barbour, sister of the late Samuel Barbour, or Hill, of Shenstone Park, esq. John, Samuel, and Thomas, who died unmarried; also two daughters, — wife of — Tatton, of Widrenshaw in Cheshire, esq. late high sheriff for the county of Chester, and hath issue, and Elizabeth, who died about 1766, at Shrewsbury, unmarried. John, the eldest son, of New Tatton in Cheshire, in April, 1735, married —, second daughter of — Ward, esq. counsellor at law, of Cheshire, formerly member of parliament for Newton in Lancashire, with whom he had a fortune of 15,000l. By her he had issue a daughter, who died at the age of seven years, and leaving his wife with child, she was delivered of another daughter that deceased in her infancy.

Samuel succeeded his brother John, and is now living at Tatton Park, where he hath a noble seat, erected in part by his father, but with great additions in a style of magnificence made by himself; the park he hath also enlarged, so much as

* Born March 16, 1651.

to take in a circuit of twelve miles. This gentleman was unanimously elected one of the representatives for the county of Chester, and so continued in a succeeding parliament; he was one of the members of the House of Commons who voted the terms of the last peace were not satisfactory; and, in April, 1768, when John Wilkes, esq. elected a fourth time member of parliament for the county of Middlesex, was expelled, acted as a neutral. By ——— daughter of ——— Copley, of Lancashire, esq. which lady hath been dead some years, he hath issue an only daughter, aged 15. Arms. 1. 4. A. a crescent S. 2. 3. G. a crescent in the first, another in the fess front for difference, counterchanged as the field. Crest on a helmet proper mantled, G. doubles A; a wreath of his colours thereon, a greyhound sejant A. tied by the neck to a hawthorn-tree, fruited proper with a band O.

Proceeding on in the same hamlet, called Wood-end (which seems to be so named from its being for more than a mile the outward bounds of the wood, which was formerly encouraged in the park to which it adjoins, all the way from the Moss Lake), we pass a water or lake, called Wood-end lake, upon the Birmingham road, and on the right hand find a mansion, or the lands belonging thereto, named *The Suffords*, most likely from some ancient owner of it. This was the estate of a considerable family in the parish, named Priest, which held lands in Fotherley or Radley Moor, lately in the possession of Samuel Hill, of Shenstone Park, esq. deceased, a part of Broadfield, which passed to one Henry Murray, after to Thomas Biddulph of Fotherley. The Ox Leasows, and Holt Meadow in Fotherley, were afterwards sold to William Marlow of the same place, with many other estates of good value; all which, as far as I can learn, are alienated, but are known, at least what was generally sold by them in the decline of the family, by their being tythe-free, a subject of which I shall treat by and by.

The

The Priest families were settled at Wood-end or Fotherley, for by these places are they distinguished. The first we note is in the reign of Charles II; but we cannot tell how much earlier they lived there from the uncertainty of records. In 1667, the widow Priest, and William her son, gave to the assessment for the loan to the king 5s. 6d. ob. being one quarterly payment; and, the same year, 9s. 6d. more as an addition to it. William of Wood-end, by Elizabeth his wife, had a son, James, born in August 1678; Elizabeth in June 1680; Ann in 1682, in which year he was churchwarden. James Priest, whom I suppose brother to William, by Ann his wife had issue Elizabeth, born in 1687. William abovesaid paid, in 1692, 3s. poll-tax for himself, his wife, and one child with him. Francis Priest of Fotherley, by Mary his wife had issue, Francis; William born in 1688; and John in 1696, who died in 1699; and a daughter Joyce, married to William Smyth in 1679; also Mary in 1701. This Francis died in 1712; and Mary his wife in 1709. One of the last male heirs of this family sold a considerable estate at Hill in Sutton-Colefield some time since, viz. about the year 1760 or 1761, and is since dead.

The mansion and lands were by the Priests conveyed to the Yardleys, who are also spoken of as people of property, and of long standing here. In 1598, Isabel Yardley of this parish was married to Rowland Greybrook. Mrs. Yardley paid, in 1677, 2s. 2d. a quarter to the royal aid; and to the addition made the same year 3s. 9d. Edward Yardley, gent. possessed this estate 22 Charles I. and seems to have had issue a son John, who, for himself and wife, paid 2s. poll-tax in 1692; who, by Elizabeth his wife, had issue John, born in 1685; she died in 1708. Ann Yardley, widow, died in 1700.

The family of old married to a daughter of — Marbury, of Marbury and Dadsbury in Cheshire, and were long seated at

Kenilworth in Warwickshire. William Yardley, son of John, in the reign of Edward VI. married Elizabeth daughter to William Morton, of Cheshire, esq. 22 Henry VII. John Yardley was abbot of Kenilworth; and earlier, 1434 (Henry VI.), Lady Joan Beauchamp de Abergavenny left by will to John Yardley ten marks. They seem to have taken their name from Yardley in Worcestershire, near Birmingham, of which line I suppose Edward Yardley, gentleman, to have derived his descent.

Arms. Azure, a flag current Or, between three greyhounds Argent; the undermost of those in chief, Sable; that in base, regardant.

From the Yardleys, this estate at Wood-end came to the Colliers or Colyeres, of which Christopher Colyere, gent. possessed it, as his widow did also. Graciana, their daughter, sold it, in 1755 or 1756, to Thomas Bolton, who, in 1769, passed it to William Twyfe.

As this place pays a heriot to the lord of the manor, I shall say something in regard to such custom, which may suffice for all farther mention of it. Heriot is derived from the Saxon *here*, an army of heregeats, or heriots and reliefs, and *geat* *fusus*, distributed; which word *heregeat*, compounded, means provision for war, or a tribute or relief given to the lord of the manor for his better preparation to be in the army; and by the laws of king Canute the Dane, it appears that so many horses and arms were to be paid at the death as they were respectively obliged to keep in their life-time for the king's service; but this was paid long before Canute's time, and not only in warlike weapons, but in money and other things; for those thanes or nobles who held their lands of the Saxon kings, paid fifty mancuses, which were square pieces of gold, each worth two shillings and six pence of our money, four horses, and two swords, for an heriot.

A mo-

A modern ingenious writer says, "Heriots affixed to copy-holds and not abolished with other burdens in 12 Charles II." (when greater liberties were given than were granted by Magna Charta itself) "are of Danish origin, and now or late subsisted in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, and are a render of the best beast or goods (as the custom may be), to the lord on the death of the tenant, being a relief of the villein tenure, and had less hardship in it, as all the goods and chattels were the lord's; and he might have seized them in the villein's life-time. King William I. changed heriots compulsory, introduced by the Danes, into reliefs;" a payment now established by custom, which we observe had its rise since the Conquest, and for this reason, because heriot service was paid in oxen, horses, &c. under the Saxon government to the lord; but after William I. no tribute of oxen, horses, or other cattle, could be paid by the English, because they were generally stripped of all such goods by the Normans; therefore, instead of it, this payment of a sum of money was substituted, which is called a relief*; but even this payment was very uncertain till the statute of Magna Charta, for sometimes it was satisfied with money, and often with other effects; but by that statute it was fixed to a fourth part of the annual income, which was requisite by the law to support the dignity of the person to whom the inheritance was descended; if it was to the son of a knight, then he was to pay 5l. 15s. because 5l. *per ann.* was accounted a sufficient maintenance for a knight till the latter part of the reign of Edward I. and from 1 Edward II. such a one was to pay 5l. as that was then declared to be a fourth of such a knight's yearly support; though Sir Thomas Smyth † says, such main-

* A *relevando*, quod feodum quasi collapsum eo relevetur.

† In his English Republick.

tenance

tenance was then 4cl. *per annum*; and Sir Edward Coke says, such fee consisted of 680 acres. If the inheritance came to a baron's heir, he was to pay 100 marks for a relief, because 400 marks *per annum* was at that time (viz. after Edward II.) an estate for a baron; if to the son of an earl, then he was to pay 100l. as 400l. yearly was an earl's estate; if to the eldest son of a duke, he was to give 200l. for a relief, 800l. *per annum* being a duke's estate; but this must be after king Edward III. who created the first duke after the Conquest; such estates being in those times reckoned sufficient to support those dignities. Heriots, which as we said king William changed into reliefs, to this day frequently remain in the shape of a double rent, payable at the death of a tenant.

We now note farther, that heriots, which yet continue among us, seem rather of Saxon original, and at first to be meerly discretionary. These are mostly confined to copyhold tenures, and are due by custom only, which is the life of all estates by copy, and are perhaps the only instance, as the author of the Commentaries on the Municipal Law observes, where custom hath favoured the lord; for this payment was originally a voluntary donation, or gratuitous legacy of the tenant, perhaps in acknowledgment of his having been raised to a degree above villenage, when all his goods and chattels were at the mercy of the lord; and custom, which has on one side confirmed the tenant's interest in exclusion of the lord's will, hath on the other hand established this discretionary piece of gratitude into a permanent duty.

An heriot may also appertain to free land that is held by service and suit of court, in which case it is most commonly copyhold enfranchised, whereupon the heriot is still continued, and is due by custom. It is sometimes of the best live beast that the tenant

tenant died possessed of, called in the 29th law of king William I. the *villein's releif*, sometime the best inanimate good, under which a jewel or piece of may be included; but it is always a personal chattel, which, immediately on the death of the tenant who owned it being ascertained, by the option of the lord becomes vested in him as his property. Agreeable to this custom, on the decease of — Beardfley, gent. who owned lands in Shenstone, a piece of plate was appropriated to the lord's use, which his relict, — Beardfley (now of Tamworth), exchanged for a payment of ten guineas. In some places there is a customary composition in money, as ten or twenty shillings in lieu of a heriot, by which lord and tenant are both bound, if it be indisputably ancient custom; but a new composition of this sort will not bind either party, for that amounts to a creation of a new custom, which now is impossible.

Some lands in this parish pay no great tythes; among these we may reckon the estate we are now treating of. The reason of it is, that in the 31st year of the reign of king Henry VIII. a statute was made, which enacts, that all persons who should come to the possession of the lands of any abbey then dissolved, should hold them free and discharged of tythes, in as large and ample a manner as the abbeys themselves formerly held them. If such provision had not been made, most of these exemptions of tythes would have fallen with them, and the lands become tythable again; and from this original have sprung all the lands which, being in lay-hands, do at present claim to be tythe-free; for, if a man can shew his lands to have been the property of such religious houses, and also immemorially discharged of tythes, it is a good prescription for not paying them, but he must shew both these requisites, for abbey-lands, without especial ground of discharge, are not discharged of

course; neither will any prescription prevail in total discharge of tythes, unless it relate to such abbey-lands. Hence we discern the mistake of those persons among us who too positively assert, that such estates pay no tythes, only because they belonged to the family of the Priests of this parish, who had purchased the tythes of such estates, or had received them so discharged. Indeed it might be, that such families possessed and sold them at several times, and to different persons; and likewise, that these very lands now are free from such payment; but the best solution of this matter is found in the foregoing observations, which indicate, that such possessions had belonged before the dissolution and devastation made by king Henry VIII. to some religious house or abbey, and not unlikely to that of Osney near Oxford, to which the church itself appertained; neither may it seem an unreasonable conjecture, that these were called Priest's lands, as having been the property of the priests or clergy who resided in such religious house; farther, people in general, and especially the family of the Colyeres, have a tradition among them, that this estate was originally taken from the church.

Farther on stands a tolerable good house, which, though now used as a farm-house, was the residence of a good family named Sylvester, for several generations, though the older mansion seems to have been in the taste of those times, half timbered and plastered walls, and situate in a field opposite, a part of which remained long since the present was erected, which is built of brick, and is of a modern structure*.

The first of these persons that I can find certainly to have lived here, was Thomas Sylvester (about queen Elizabeth's days),

* Raised by Robert, in the reign of George I.

who had a son and heir James, in the reign of James I. that lived to a good old age, more than 90, mentioned in several deeds in 1638, 1690, and in November, 1691. In 1667 he paid 2s. 4d. quarterly assentment to the royal aid, as the tax was called; and again, with his mother, 2s. 7d. ob. the same year. He had issue five sons, and two daughters; Elizabeth married to Edward Thornton, of Fotherley; and Mary, to John Alcock, of Fradley; both persons of fortune. The sons were 1, Robert; 2, Nicolas *, a clergyman, who settled in Leicestershire, and left issue one son and a daughter; 3, Benjamin, who died at sea; 4, James of Bristol, who left children; 5, Joseph, who lived some time in Sutton parish, but afterwards was an officer in the army, and there died. Robert was of Thickbrome, and married Elizabeth †, daughter of William Heath, gent. of Hamerwick-Hall, by Sarah his wife, daughter of Richard Brandreth, of Shenstone Hall, esq. and had issue by her five sons; also daughters, of which one was wife of — Dawes, of Tamworth; the sons were, 1, Robert; 2, Nicolas, of Bangley and Tamworth, a person considerable for his fortune; 3, William, a clothier, who died of a fall from his horse; 4, James, who is mentioned to have paid 4s. poll-tax for himself, his wife, and two maid servants; 5, John, who lived at Thickbroom, and left issue. Robert Sylvester (son of Robert) upon whom James his grandfather settled the Woodend estate, married Elizabeth, sister of James, and daughter of Sampson Bulkley, of the Morelands in Staffordshire, gent. (by his wife Jane, daughter of Edward Lake, of Shenstone Park,

* Rector of Shurland. He died in 1687-8, and was buried at Shenstone the 21st of February.

† Who died 1716-17.

esq.), and had issue six sons and seven daughters; Elizabeth, born 1696, wife of Henry Price, a poor man, and now living in Shenstone village, who hath issue; Lydia died young; Mary and Jane living; Ann, Sarah, and Rebecca. The sons were, 1, Lake Sylvester, dead, and left one daughter; 2, James, born 1701, who had children, all dead; 3, Robert of Aldrich, who had a son Lake, that went to sea; 4, John, born 1712; 5, Sampson, born 1715; 6, Isaac, who died young.

Robert, father of these children, is often mentioned as a person active in business relating to this parish, and therein joined with John Aricson, Rowland Frith, Michael Brandreth, esqrs.; Christopher Colyere, John Brown of Fotherley, Robert Greisbroke, Thomas Dickenson, John Hardwick, Walter Astley, James Fletcher, Thomas Ward, John Jackson of Chesterfield, Richard Scott of Aston, gentlemen; with Edward Thornton, and other principal inhabitants; but, outliving his estate, was obliged to sell it either to the honourable and reverend Richard Hill, or to Samuel Hill *, of Shenstone Park, esq. from whom it passed to Thomas Hill, of Tern, esq. whose son Noel Hill, esq. represented Shrewsbury in parliament, except ten or twelve pounds *per ann.* which went to Samuel Egerton, of Tatton Park, esq.

* Samuel Hill purchased it with money of his uncle's left for that end.

M O S S.

At the foot of St. John's Hill, a quarter of a mile from the church to the South, and on the right side of the public road, stands a neat house named *The Moss*, from its situation in a mossy or marshy ground; which site seems to have been chosen originally for its nearness to the church, and plenty of water, which running from the house spreads itself over a considerable part of the road, and is thence called *The Moss Lake*; passing hence through the land of Samuel Egerton, esq. it joins the Park brook, and soon after, at Weeford, the Black brook. The mansion, to which great additions were made by the late John Dolphyn, esq. standing on a gradually rising ground, even from the Park itself, makes a pretty appearance. The present owner has fallen three rows of elm-trees which stood in the front, and thereby laid the house open to the view of travellers, which a few years since was so shut up with a court, walls, and elm-trees, with a walled garden, and evergreens, as to wear the aspect of solitude and retirement, and to appear more like a house of religious devotees than the seat of a gentleman. He hath also erected handsome offices and stables, and made other not unpleasing alterations, both in the mansion and in the lands about it. From the bottom of St. John's hill (on the summit of which stands the aforesaid clump of fir-trees, and in an adjoining field a clump of elms lately planted) are rows of elms, one on each side of the way as far as the church-piece or vicarage-flat, which are truly an ornament even in this delightful situation.

This place the possessor calls a manor; so do the Collections of a late eminent physician *: his words are, "In the manor of Shenstone was a manor called *The Manor of the Mofs*." At present it seems disputable, unless it be, as the law terms it, "in reputation only," which will not pass either in a fine or recovery by the name of a manor, because those are conveyances by record, which cannot be taken by intendment.

A manor (a grant that had its rise after the Conquest) was formerly a compass of land passed by the king to some baron or great person, for him and his family to dwell on, and to exercise some jurisdiction within that place, performing such services, and paying such yearly rent as the king did by such grant require; and afterwards this grantee parcelled out this land to others, enjoining them to do such services, and to pay such rents as were appointed them; so that, as the baron or great man was tenant to the king, the others of inferior degree to whom these lands were parcelled out, became lords of manors and tenants to him, and their grantees tenants to them. Hence we observe, that if the Mofs were formerly a manor, it hath ceased to be so, seeing it is requisite that it should be one real or nominal. A real manor consists in demesnes and services, and a court baron as incident to it; and it cannot be a real one if it wants freeholders, nor a customary one if it wants copyholders, as in both senses is the case of this place; yet I have been informed, from good authority, that the lord of the manor of Shenstone pays an annual crown rent for this, as a manor (of old time) within that of Shenstone.

The Mofs house, or some mansion near this spot, was the property of the barons of Hook Norton, till one of them, Henry

* Thomas Wilkes, of Willen-Hall.

D'Oyley, high constable of England, gave it to the abbey of Osney in Oxfordshire, whose monks erected a grange here for their residence, and that of their bailiffs, who collected the rents and tythes appertaining to the church, with which it went (as far as we can learn) till the dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. after which it was granted to — Stanley, esq. of whom tradition speaks as related to the great family of the Stanleys, earls of Derby. The daughter of — Stanley, or the heiress of that house at the Moss, carried the estate by her marriage to one Dolphyn*.

We find the name of Stanley early in the parish records, in 1583, but nothing that ascertains the place of their residence, except the Stanleys, near Thornes Hall, are of the same lineage, or those of Lyndon, Overstonall, or Shenstone, all which are mentioned; but but we cannot discern which branch introduced the Dolphyns into this place. Their name originally was Swanshurst, so named from Swanshurst, an hamlet in the parish of Yardley, near Birmingham, where to this day remains, as I suppose, the elder branch of the Dolphyns. How they came to change their name is not very clear. The tradition among them is, that it was assumed in early times by their ancestor, upon the taking in the wars of France a standard or banner belonging to the dauphin, son of the French king. The probability we dispute not, but are not quite satisfied with this reason without good authority, seeing in former times it was not unusual for sons of the same parents to bear different surnames, either from remarkable circumstances attending them, their situation, as Swanshurst, which means a woody place where trees grow, but low on account of the unaptness of the

* See the Collections of Thomas Wilkes, M. D.

foil, much frequented by swans, a repetition of their christian names, or the like; having no family accounts to refer to, we are, as heretofore, at a loss, but shall give what we can attain relating to the Dolphyns.

William Dolphyn, in the 19th year of the reign of Edward III, was one of the persons left in trust by Robert Folewood, first vicar of Tamworth church, in Warwickshire, afterwards united to Maxtoc priory, to find a priest who should celebrate divine service at the altar of St. Mary for all the living and dead of the parish, and for their benefactors; also to say daily a *placebo* and *dirige*, with a special commendation of him the said Robert and his heirs; to which purpose he left lands in that parish and Beaumont. In the 47th year of the reign of king Edward III. Richard Dolphyn, Richard Mountford, and others, founded a chantry in a chapel near Lapsworth church, in Warwickshire, giving for that purpose two messuages, two carucates of land, twelve acres of meadow ground, and 16s. rent, all in Tamworth, called Woodard's Lond, Heath Lond, and Listerley Field, which were confirmed by Thomas Beauchamp earl of Warwick, lord of the fee, for a priest to sing mass every day, to the honour of the Blessed Virgin, St. Thomas the Martyr, and all the Saints. In the 49th year of the reign of king Edward III. Richard Dolphyn confirmed Thomas Barbour in the living of Preston Bagot, in Warwickshire. In 1379 Richard Dolphyn, prebendary of Maxtoc, and rector of Tamworth, dying, was buried there, and an inscription being set over him imploring prayers for the dead, it was ordered to be altered*.

These quotations from antiquity shew, that the name was as old as the reign of king Edward III. The

* Ricardum Dolfyn cerne, homo, locus tenet iste:

Æternam lucem ei dare ne dedignaris Christe.

The bishop, on complaint, caused it to be defaced, and the following substituted:

The parish records being lost, in which were the registered accounts from 1610 to 1655, we know not in what intermediate year between these dates the family settled at Shenstone, but, meeting with the name in 1659, conclude the person then mentioned to have been the son of that — Dolphyn who married — Stanley's daughter, of the Moss. John Dolphyn*, in 1659, had issue John, baptized November 12 in that year; and by Sarah his wife, secondly, William, born in 1666; 3, Thomas, born 1672, died 1678; 4, Richard, born 1674; 5, George, 1675, expressly said to have been buried in flannel, October, 1678; the daughters were Ann, born 1662, died 1667; Sarah, born 1666; Damaris in 1668; Elizabeth in 1670. Sarah, wife of this John, died in 1679, and he in 1699. Of the children, William died in 1701; and Damaris was married in April, 1691, to Edward King of Worcester. In 1682, John Dolphyn, gent. was one of the two persons deputed to give and take possession of the several divisions of the Radley more lands, according to a decree in the high court of Chancery.

John, son of John Dolphyn aforesaid, settled at Stafford as an attorney at law, and there became clerk of the peace, and eminent in that profession. In the reign of king George I. he served in parliament for the borough of Stafford; was also steward to the dutchess of Hamilton or Queensbury, and to the

Jesus.

Ricardum Dolsyn cerne, homo, mortuum, locum tenet Christi.

Sed noluit locum Christi vivus intrare iste.

This is blotted out, and below are these words:

Supradictus Ricardus

obiit. primo die:

Octobris, anno

Domini 1592.

Dugdale's Warwickshire, 2d edit. p. 777.

* In 1677, he paid 7s. for a quarter's assessment of the royal aid.

earl

earl of Uxbridge, and others. He married twice; 1, to Helen, daughter of — Howe, with whom he had in the end an handsome fortune; 2, to Isabel Hoare, a widow, but had no issue by her. By the first he had three sons; 1, Howe, born 1690, who died a bachelor; 2, John, who also died unmarried; 3, Henry, born 1696; and daughters, 1, Sarah, born 1685, married first to — Edensor, of Birmingham; secondly, to Paul Smyth, attorney at law, who lived both at Stafford and Shenstone. She survived him, and was buried at Shenstone in 1730, dying without issue. 2, Catharine, born 1692, died in 1724 of a consumption; 3, Damaris, wife of the Reverend J. Rann, A. M. now of Caldmore, near Walsal, late of the Delves in Wednesbury, and minister of West Bromwich, yet vicar of Rushal in 1769, aged 82; she is yet living, but advanced in years. Their issue were several sons that grew to manhood, and some married, but all died without issue; and two daughters; 1, Sarah, wife of — Mattox, attorney at law, and master in chancery, yet living in Salop, by whom she, deceasing about 1755, left issue seven children; 2, Damaris, wife of Peter Jones, minister of West Bromwich, and prebendary of the collegiate church of Wolverhampton, by whom she had issue two children, both dead, as well as the parents. Isabel, second wife of John Dolphyn, of Stafford, esq. was buried at Shenstone April 14, 1715. In 1692 I find both this John, and John Dolphyn, senior, resident at Shenstone; for, in the list of those who paid to the poll-tax that year is John Dolphyn, senior, mentioned to pay 1s. and John Dolphyn, junior, attorney, for himself, wife, and two children, 4s. This John died in 1724, in May, and was buried in the family vault in Shenstone church.

William

William, second brother of this John, was settled in London. By Catharine his wife, daughter and coheir of Thomas Hufsey, of Lincolnshire, gent. he had issue, 1. Catharine, living in 1769 at Shenstone; 2. Sarah; and a son William; who all died young, and unmarried.

Howe, the eldest son, being for family reasons set aside in the inheritance, though he lived many years after;

John, the second son, was settled at the Moss in 1722, if not earlier; was many years in the commission of the peace, in which he acted with much reputation, and was an useful and valuable person in private life, continually employed in composing differences and exerting all his power for that purpose, for which he is by multitudes remembered, and spoken of by all in terms of gratitude. He died in July 1756, a bachelor, and was interred in Shenstone church upon the 26th of that month.

Henry afore said, youngest brother of this John, was an attorney in Stafford. He purchased the estate and mansion held by Samuel Whaley, of Footherley, esq. and deceased in March, 1743-4, leaving issue by — his wife, daughter of — Vernon, and sister to the Reverend Mr. Vernon, of — Airly in Staffordshire, and to the wife of — Perrot, of Belland in Worcestershire, and of Edgbaston in Warwickshire, esq. one of his Majesty's justices of the peace, one son, John, and three daughters; 1. Sarah, wife of — Meiller, of Derby, esq.; 2. Catharine, wife of — Whitby, attorney at law of the same place; both are living, and have children; 3. Elizabeth, unmarried.

John succeeded his father in 1743-4, and his uncle John, of the Moss, in 1756, from whom he inherited an handsome estate at Shenstone, and elsewhere. This John Dolphyn pur-

T

chased,

chased, about the year 1764, an estate of 600*l. per annum*, or upwards, called Highford, in Gloucestershire (a seat and manor in the hundred of Slougher), of Francis Wanley, D. D. dean of Rippon, brother and heir to William Wanley, esq. of Highford, who died May 4, 1762. This estate was named *Elford* and *Elford Pastures*, in king Stephen's days, then valued at 28*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* yearly: the farm appertaining to it was valued at 4*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* and belonged to the abbey of Evesham in Worcestershire. I the rather mention this to shew what change is made in the worth of lands since that reign.

The present gentleman was appointed high-sheriff for the county of Stafford in 1760, and the same year carried up the county address to king George III. (an office which his uncle had before enjoyed in the reign of king George II.); he is also in the commission of the peace. In May, 1767, he married Margaret, daughter of — Eeles, of Harley-street, Cavendish-square, London, esq. and hath issue a daughter, Maria, born in February, 1768.

John Dolphyn, esq. was educated at Eton school, and afterwards at Trinity college, Cambridge, and is now about thirty-eight years old. By Margaret, his said wife, he hath issue a son, Thomas Vernon, born June 18, and baptized September 13, 1769.

FOOTHERLEY.

F O O T H E R L E Y.

Footherley, or, as the old maps of Staffordshire have it, *Foterley*, is an hamlet that has its beginning half a mile South-West of the church, extending itself from a brook so named, a mile and a half to Radley Moors on the right hand, and to the point of Wood-end on the left to the Birmingham road. The term seemingly derives itself of its site from Shenstone village, and of *be*, which in the old British tongue means a place * that lies unmanured and wildly overgrown. This place is not populous, containing only fourteen or fifteen houses (in which reckoning, we except the Boffes), though formerly there were many more, which are either suffered to fall, or are taken away, that the lands appertaining to them might encrease the remaining farms, agreeable to modern practice. *Footherly*, adjoining in a great measure to Wood-end, hath therefore many of its privileges in common with it, but in other respects hath the advantage, producing especially better barley; herein excelling all other lands in Shenstone, as well as the country round about it. In this district are some lands tythe-free, said to be so as having been the estates of ——— Priest, who purchased a considerable part of the tythes; as others say, from their being church lands; a matter we have already spoken of under the account of Wood-end. The two hamlets have a good portion of land separated by the public road lying towards Sutton Cole-

* Verstegan's Antiquities.

field and Little Aston, called the Oldfield, being 25 acres of land; and Pleckfield, consisting of 30 acres, or thereabouts, each of which the inhabitants customarily enclose every third year, and cultivate for three seasons, then lay them open for the advantage of turning sheep upon them.

Near to these fields is Wood-end, or Footherley, common, which answers the same ends, and is therefore farther profitable; not to mention here what we noted of the land belonging to the paupers of Footherley, which is rented at the sum of five pounds ten shillings yearly.

Either from this, or a place of the same name, is a family called *Footberley*, of which John Footherley, esq. was in May, 1737, governor of the province of Pennsylvania.

The house now possessed by John Preston was formerly the property of a good family, named *Sylvester*, of which was Roger, who had issue Thomas, in the reign of Henry VIII. father* of Roger, born in 1579. Roger the elder died in 1585. Roger Sylvester, the younger, had John and James, who married Alice Collins, and died in 1603. John, the youngest son of Roger, of Footherley, deceased in 1601, leaving John, Robert, and James, who died in 1685. John died in 1669, and Ann, his widow, in 1674. Of this family we can find no more with any certainty.

The next possessors were named *Smyth*. How this family procured it is not said, but we find William Smyth, of Footherley, at the Restoration, who died there in 1663-4; and in 1679 William, his son, married Joyce, daughter of ——— Priest, of the same place; dying without issue, he left this estate to S. Atwood, afterwards wife of Edward †, son of James Handley, of

* And of Frances, born 1580; also of John.

† He married this Susanna Atwood, April 11, 1710.

Chesterfield, whose daughter and heiress carried it to Thomas Stanley, of Thornes; from him it was purchased by the late John Dolphyn, of the Mofs, esq. whose nephew and heir now enjoys it.

At a small distance, on the right hand, stands a neat mansion, delightfully situated, and facing the church. This is modern in a great degree, the present possessor having expended upwards of 800l. upon it. The old house, in all probability, was erected in the reign of queen Elizabeth, the earliest date I can trace the families of note who had their residence here; but another was built by —— Brown, which the present gentleman altered at the abovesaid expence.

Francis Floyer was settled here in the time of queen Elizabeth, which gentleman I conjecture to have been a younger son of the Hintz family. He died in December 1601, and was buried at Shenstone. The first of the Floyers of this line was of Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, who left Richard, lord of the manor of Wetton in the Moorlands, of Uttoxeter Moor, a manor that he purchased upon the sale of it by the crown, then in lease for a long term, as appears on an inquisition taken in the 7th year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, December 16. He left Richard of Hyntz (a seat and manor purchased by his grandfather, of Uttoxeter, of Edward Basset*, esq. a younger son of Ralph Basset, of Blore in Staffordshire), who was a barrister of the Middle Temple; he married twice, 1. —— daughter of Sir Richard Weston, knight, one of the barons of the Exchequer, which lady died without issue; 2. Elizabeth, daughter of William, son of Zachariah Babyngton, living in 1660. Richard Floyer of Hintz was justice of the peace during the Usurpation; be-

* Of Hyntz, 1583, as in the Heralds Visitation.

fore him marriages were solemnized according to the act made in Cromwell's time. In 1667 Robert Greifbrook paid for — Floyer to the royal aid. I find also Richard Floyer, who had issue a son Matthew, who had issue a daughter, wife of George Antrobus, of Birmingham, M. D. that died without issue; also Catharine, who died unmarried. In the reign of William III. lived at Fotherley, Ralph Floyer and Margery his wife. In 1707-8 died Lettice their daughter, and was buried at Shenstone. In the reign of George II. resided at the same place Charles Floyer, esq. afterwards heir to his brother — of Hyntz, father by Sufanna — his wife, to Ralph of Hyntz, 1769; which Charles had issue born at Fotherley; Charles in 1743, Mary in 1714, and Sufannah in 1745.

Of this family were Sir John and Sir Peter Floyer, knights; Sir Peter, brother of Sir John, of London, and Cheshunt in Hertfordshire, was a noted refiner in Foster-lane, London, in which situation he acquired an ample fortune. The relict of Sir Peter died in 1732, at Cheshunt; their children were a son, colonel of the fourth troop of life-guards, who died March 23, 1733, without issue, leaving the bulk of his fortune, about 6000*l. per annum.* to a sister, and a daughter, Letitia, who lived at Islington, near London, heir to her brother. Sir John, an eminent physician of Lichfield, married —, daughter of — Archibald * (with whom lady Elizabeth Stanhope, afterwards wife of Samuel Hill, of Shenstone Park, esq. was educated), and had issue two sons, Archibald, who died without issue; and John, of Longdon near Lichfield, who had issue Sufanna, wife of Sacheverell Floyer, of Hyntz, by whom she had no issue; she secondly married George Lea, of Mayfield, and had

* Sir Henry Archbald, knight, of Lichfield, in 1673.

by him one daughter, wife of Lea, counsellor at law, of Matherfield in Staffordshire.

Sir John Floyer, knight, M. D. had a messuage and lands at Fotherley, which were before the property of Edward Thornton; also land in the adjoining moors, which pays two wood hens, besides a chief-rent to the lord of Shenstone manor, which afterwards descended to his great grand-daughter, wife of the aforesaid counsellor Lea (who, besides other lands, enjoys in her right the manor of Matherfield); she disposed of the Fotherley estate to the present John Dolphyn, esq. who took down the farmhouse, and annexed the land to other tenures. Sir John Floyer, knight, died at Lichfield January 31, 1733-4.

Of the abovesaid John Floyer, of London, we add, that he left by will a considerable estate to John Burnes Floyer, esq. of Aldershaw, near Lichfield, yet in his minority, only son of Richard Burnes, of Aldershaw (who deceased in 1766), by Anne Leonard, of Wednesbury in Staffordshire.

I have here placed together what related to the Floyers, yet we find other persons possessed of this mansion called Fotherley hall, and lands about it, particularly a branch of the Sylvesters. John Sylvester seems to have sold it to the Browns, being expressly said in the rolls to have been the owner prior to this family. Samuel Brown was of Fotherley soon after the death of Cromwell, if not during his usurpation. In 1666 Eleanor Brown was married to Nicholas Sylvester, who, if descended of John, as above, might induce this family to settle here, it being pretty sure that they came out of Salop, from Wellington, or some place near the Wreking. This Samuel Brown died here in September 1667; besides other children, he left John. In 1667, John Brown, gent. paid 3s. 6d. quarterly assessment to the royal aid, and to the addition made the
same

same year 6s; also 1s. for Perry's land. In 1674 John Brown, then called of Thornes hall, gent. purchased ten acres of land in the Broadfield, of James Adams of Footherley; in 1682, sixteen acres of John Birch and his wife, under a lease of 500 years; that year he evidenced the receipt of a sum of money for the Radley Moor pieces, purchased by himself and others, acting herein as an agent to the Fryths. He was also one of the churchwardens in 1690. His wife was Grenada, widow of Edward, and mother of Rowland Fryth, esqrs. who died in February 1695-6, without any issue from her second husband; when he died * I cannot find out. This Grenada Brown left by will fifty pounds to purchase land, the profit of which was ordered to be distributed among the poor widows, or for want of such widows, among the poor inhabitants of Lynn, and the two Stonalls; this money remained in the Court of Chancery till 1721.

Samuel, of Footherley-hall, brother to John of Thornes hall, had issue John, Samuel, and Anne, who survived her brothers, and lived some time after their decease, at the same house. She leaving it to a tenant, lived at Tatenel near Burton, to a good age, and dying in February 1762, was interred at Shenstone, having never married. Mary, wife of Thomas Dickinson, by whom she had children; she lived to be 90 years old, dying at Upper Stonal in January 1767. wife of Pryce, of Ludlow in Shropshire; Jane, her daughter, is or lately was living at the Grove, near Drakelow in Derbyshire; a fourth, Elizabeth, married Salt, of Hilton in this parish, yet living at Dudley with her son. John, the eldest, became heir to John, his uncle, of Thornes, and was bred to

* John Brown, gent. of Shenstone, was buried November 10, 1709.

the law, but did not choofe to praétise it, except as his knowledge of it enabled him to act in the capacity of a steward to lord Willoughby de Broke, at whose feat he mostly refided, and with whom he was highly in favour for his integrity. I fuppofe this to be the perfon Dr. Plott * means, when he obferves, that “ Mr. Brown, of Footherley, fent the trunk of a fir-tree taken “ out of the Peat-more to captain Lane for his examination,” or his father more probably, from the time of its date, in the reign of James II. In 1692, Mr. Brown paid 6s. poll-tax for himfelf, his wife, and four fervants, and one pound one fhilling to the militia, and towards horfes to mount them; where we muft underftand it of his father or uncle, fceeing this John of Footherley was never married. Being an active man in behalf of the parifh, upon the 12th of June, 1721, it was agreed, that the legacy of Mrs Grenada Brown to the poor widows of Over Stonall, Nether Stonall, and Lynne, which, by a decree in chancery then lately made, was affirmed to be due unto them, remaining in the hands of a mafter in chancery, fhould be got out of that court; and that Mr. John Brown, of Footherley, fhould be employed to get the fame: figned by many perfons prefent, Chriftopher Colyere, J. Jackson, Fr. Rawlins, W. Hardwick, Edw. Handley, Geo. Hawe, T. Biddle, Nic. Wyatt, Rd. Steel, &c.

The caufe was accordingly profecuted, and the money recovered; but part of it being afterwards loft, it was judged moft prudent to lay it out in land, and with the faid money was bought the Poor’s piece, adjoining to Chefterfield ley, the rent of which is yearly diftributed as directed in the laft will of the aforefaid Grenada Brown. Mr. Brown, in 1713, was concerned in a

* See the History of Staffordfhire.

lease of lands from James Adams, gent, of Footherley, to William Henry, of Wood-end; that year he witnessed a deed passed between Joseph and Thomas Alsop, of Little Hay, and is mentioned for the last time in the records, May 29, 1723. At his death he enjoined his executors to dispose of his estate.

Oliver Brown, in 1667, paid to the royal aid for Pool-bridge meadow and mills, with John Brown, gent.

Samuel (brother and heir to John), studying divinity, entered into holy orders, took the degree of Doctor in Divinity, and was made chaplain to queen Anne. By Elizabeth his wife, he had issue, 1. John, who died young; 2. Francis, a clergyman, yet living at Old Swynford, near Stourbridge in Worcestershire, who married Anne, daughter of — Sadler, of Whitacre in Warwickshire, and hath several children (3), a daughter.

Samuel Brown died in January 1724-5, and was buried the 30th, at Shenstone. Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Brown, died in 1703.

In 1715 died Mr. Edward Brown, of Wiggington near Tamworth, and was buried here.

At the same time that Henry Pitt * held the farm, lived in this mansion we are treating of — Turton, esq. son of — Turton, of Orgrave in Alrewayes, near Lichfield, descended of William Turton of the Oaks in West Bromwich, by John his younger son, about the reign of queen Elizabeth. This gentleman was unmarried when this was written, but had left Footherley many years.

The next family of note resident here, was Charles Floyer, esq. after of Hints, who had children born here, as before ob-

* 1736, and afterwards.

served,

served, and, dying a few years since, left three sons, and two daughters; 1. Catharine, wife of Thomas Levett, of Whittington (brother to John, of Whichnore and Lichfield, late a candidate to represent that city in parliament), by whom she had issue; (2) Mary, wife of Humberstone Cawley, esq. of Guerfylt, near Wrexham, in Denbighshire. Of the sons, Charles, the second, lived at Sutton Colefield; Sacheverell, the youngest, was in the Manchester trade; Ralph, the eldest, son and heir, a gentleman of fair reputation, resided at the family seat at Hints.

After Charles Floyer, came to this seat John Porter, a gentleman who had followed trade in Birmingham, and retired from business; he died in November 1731, aged 43; and Sarah, his widow, in November 1741, aged 41; both on the same day of that month, *viz.* the 29th.

Porter's family was succeeded by Samuel Whaley, esq. son of Daniel, by ——— daughter and heiress of ——— Wright, which Daniel was third son of ——— Whaley, esq. of an ancient house at Whaley, in Lancashire; whence the name. Of this gentleman, well known for his benevolence and charity, I may not say much, lest I should give offence; nor ought I to say less than that all his deportment is that of the well-bred man, and the Christian. His wife is ——— daughter of ——— Blackham, nephew or great nephew of Blackham, of London, created by king William III. in 1696, a baronet. He bore Az. 2 bars between 9 cross crosets floré. This Samuel Whaley hath no issue.

Footherley Hall is held in lease by the aforesaid gentleman for the lives of himself and wife, but is the property of John Dolphyn of the Moss, being purchased of the Browns by Henry Dolphyn, of Stafford, attorney at law.

Adjoining to it, is a small house, and farm, which went with this, except that it was at one time the property of the Thorntons, who had other lands in this hamlet, *viz.*

The house and grounds lately in the possession of Thomas Badkyn, deceased, in right of his wife, and of Wygan, and of Benjamin Dawson, of Coventry, who married the daughter and heiress of Thornton, by Ann his wife; after his decease married to Thomas Badkyn. This estate was, before Thornton, in Walter Aftley; and earlier in William Priest*.

The Thorntons, who were settled here in queen Elizabeth's reign, if not sooner, possessed also lands that were John Sylvester's, part of Radley Moor, and Moss Moor. Lately Elizabeth Thornton had a messuage and garden in Shenstone village, which William Thornton received from Sarah and Ann, daughters and coheirs of Thomas Cook, which Elizabeth, or William, sold to Oakes, whose daughter Mary, wife of Thomas Alsop of Edinghall, enjoys them.

In 1583 died Agnes Thornton; soon after we find Nicolas and Thomas, probably her sons, which last had several children. In the latter end of the reign of queen Elizabeth we find John Thornton, of Fotherley, who had issue. 22 Charles I. William, who owned Moss Moor, was witness to a deed passing lands from Roger Adams to James Fletcher, of Fotherley. In the same reign, John Thornton was made one of the attorneys to enfranchise some copyhold lands in Fotherley. In 1665 Nicolas lived at Little Hay, in Shenstone. In 1662 William, of Fotherley, had a part of Radley Moor from the lord of the manor, Edward Thornton being one of the attorneys, with John Delphyn, to give and take possession of them for that purpose, in the presence of Edward Thornton, ju-

* See above, under *Shenstone* and *Wood-end*.

nior, and Robert, with others. Edward sold lands in the same Moor to Robert Sylvester, of Wood-end; and, in 1721, was one of the persons who signed the agreement to recover the legacy of Grenada Brown from the Court of Chancery. The aforesaid estate, in the possession of Thomas Badkyn's widow, and Benjamin Dawson, was sold in 1768 to the lord of the manor.

A little farther, on the left hand, stood a house called *Veres*, from its owner, before the estate of Cannon, with the lands appertaining to it, and formerly Nicolas Wyatt's, who were settled here in the reign of queen Elizabeth. William Wyatt died at Shenstone in 1580, and left issue. Nicolas, in 1602, married Mary Higginbotham, and had Nicolas of Fotherley, who, by Elizabeth his wife that died in 1656, had William, born in 1635. Thomas Wyatt, of Fotherley, was married to Sarah Miller, of Chesterfield, according to Cromwell's ordinance, before Richard Floyer, of Hints, justice of the peace, in 1656. Nicolas, of Fotherley, died in 1699, and Sarah, his widow, in 1700. There were other branches of them in Upper and Nether Stonall. In 1667 William and Nicolas, of Fotherley, with Thomas, paid to the royal aid. In 1692 Sarah Wyatt, widow, of this hamlet, William, and his wife, paid 3s. poll-tax.

The Veres were even lately a considerable family in the neighbourhood, and at Aftley in Warwickshire, as they are now at London; in all probability derived of some younger branch of the great house of Vere, of which Aubrey was created earl of Oxford by Maud the empress, and king Henry II. her son, which title ended in Aubrey, the 20th earl, in 1703. The name is from Vere, a town in Zealand. Some, rather too fanciful, derive the name from Verus, a Christian (anno Christi

Christi 41), ancestor of Marcus Antonius Verus, the Roman emperor, and of Milo de Vere, duke of Angiers and Mayence (ann. 778), general to Charles the great, whose sister he married.

In later times I find — Vere a chief agent of Oliver Cromwell, and sent by him to execute business (under a particular commission) with cardinal de Retz, a noted French statesman. Of him arose, as some have it, a wealthy family in London, which had lands at Shenstone. Joseph Vere owned this estate at Fotherley, which one of the name * and line sold to Charles Symphon, of Lichfield, attorney at law, a few years since. In 1643-4 the committee at Stafford allowed William Vere to pass through that town, on his paying 30l. In June 1644, Mr. William Vere, of Hints, was ordered to pay to the committee 5l. on their propositions, but, as the committee were unacquainted with his circumstances, — Swynfen, esq. capt. Barbour, and others, should add or lessen that sum. In 1651, Joseph Vere, of Astley in Warwickshire, was trustee in a marriage-contract between John Clark of that place and Alice Wyatt of Shenstone. In 1701 Richard Vere married Ann Ashmole, of Wood-end in this parish, and had issue Mary, afterwards wife of Job Serjeant; and Ann Vere, widow, died in 1753.

Arms of Vere; quarterly Or and Gules, a mullet, Or.

The neat mansion, near Thornton's, belonged to the family of Fletcher, who long resided here; of which name we find in 1589, William, Rowland, Thomas, Francis, and John, who married Agnes Levett, in 1590. John had issue a son, Francis, born 1598. John Fletcher, of Fotherley, died in

* A banker of London.

1602. James, of Fotherley, had John, by Dorothy his wife, which Dorothy died in 1658. John married Mary Wotton, and died in 1680. James Fletcher, of Fotherley, gent. (son of Francis or James, by Elizabeth his wife) by Mary his wife had issue two sons, Richard, and Francis, who died an infant; also two daughters, Mary, who died unmarried; and Eleanor, who married Cooke, of Stone, attorney at law, and steward to John lord Gower. James built the present house, and died in 1722. Richard married, 1., of Stone; 2. Anne, daughter of William Hardwick, of the Boffes. Richard, and Anne, his wife, died the same day, and were entombed together, November 5, 1734, leaving no issue; he passed his estate by will to Francis Salt, of Lichfield, who had married his cousin-german; but Cook's son disputing the validity of the will, much of the estate was wasted; and at length the whole, at Fotherley, was sold to Stephen Sympson, of Lichfield, attorney at law, in whose family it still remains.

In the 22d year of the reign of Charles I. James Fletcher bought Madleze-field, in Fotherley, of Roger Adams, with other lands, lying near his mother Cecily's land, to which purchase Thomas Rugeley, William Thornton, James Fletcher, &c. were evidences. James Fletcher, of Fotherley, and James his son, in 1687, exchanged Wood-end piece with Francis Priest, for lands in the Small-field, paying over and above to the said Francis Priest the sum of forty and two pounds. This family had likewise a messuage and lands in Fotherley, or Wood-end, afterwards the property of Robert Sylvester.

In 1667, James Fletcher paid 5s. 10d. to the royal aid, as assessed; and the same year 10s. 3d. to the additional assessment on that account. In 1692, James Fletcher paid 2s. to the poll-tax, for himself and man.

The

The farm lately in the tenure of Thomas Biddulph, and of John, his son, now of John Dolphyn, esq. was formerly the estate of the Grendons; whether descended of those concerned in the manor itself is uncertain. Some fields in Shenstone bear the name of Grendon's leasows, formerly belonging to the Heaths of Hamerwich, now to the aforesaid gentleman; and, most likely, in former times to the Grendon family. Thomas Grendon died at Fotherley in 1656-7.

These lands were afterwards in a family of the Symonds, of this parish, of which was Henry, who, in 1596, married Alice Stanley; he died in 1600. Henry and Joan Symonds had issue James, born in 1603; and Joan in 1609. Thomas was buried here in 1607; and Ellen in 1609. Thomas Passaw and Elizabeth Symonds were married in 1686; and in 1713 Joshua Symonds married Margaret, daughter of Sedgwick, of Little Aston, gent.

The abovesaid farm is John Dalton's, esq.

Near this is a farm in the tenure of John Marlow, which, with lands about it, is the property of Slaney, or his heirs; it was formerly the estate of Thomas Rugeley, esq. afterwards it passed to the Colliers, of which family John Collier had it, and after him Benjamin Collier; from them it came to the Clays; and since to Morton Slaney, gent. whose sister enjoys it.

The Clays possessed likewise a messuage and lands in Shenstone village; afterwards in the hands of Samuel Hill, Thomas Hill, and now of Noel Hill, of Terne, esq. In 1661, William Clay, with Alexander and Thomas Warde, of Wood-end, witnessed a deed of Rowland Alsop's, of this place; he died in 1664-5. Henry deceased in 1685. Thomas, of Shenstone, in 1712, married Elizabeth Grice, of Womborn, and had issue

Mary (1714); Elizabeth, daughter of and Mary Clay, was born 1724-5. In 1667 Clay, widow, paid to the royal aid.

Near the farm lately held by John Biddulph are the remains of a tolerably good mansion, long possessed by a family named Adams, who had considerable estates. Francis Adams died in 1589. John married Joan Stanley in 1596, at which time John, Roger, and Thomas, had families in this parish. Roger had issue John, born 1597, whose son seems to be Roger*, father of John and James, and a daughter Eleanor. In the 3d year of the reign of king Charles I. the two lords of this manor enfranchised for a sum of money, then paid to Rowland Fryth, their agent, the messuage and lands of John Adams, and Alice (Sylvester) his wife, at Footherley, paying to the said lord one shilling yearly, and one hen, upon the 10th of January for ever, and doing suit and service at the court baron held after Easter and after Michaelmas-day. In the 22d year of the reign of king Charles I. Roger Adams, and Mary (Higgon) his wife, sold lands lying near the Bromleys, George's, and Moss Moor, three felions in Broadfield ground, lying on the Flax Butts, towards Radley Moor; one felion in Highfield, near the land of Edward Yardley, gent. and Wyatt; with a snut, named Small-ends; the deed is attested by Thomas Rugeley, William and Thomas Thornton, John Riddings, and James Oldfield. He also bought of John and Alice, his parents, a messuage and lands in Footherley; and sold them, in 1661, to John his son. John died, as I think, unmarried in 1670. James sold ten acres in Broadfield (in the reign of Charles II.) to John Brown, of Thornes, which before were the estate of John Collier, and

* Living in 1667.

had passed to Roger and John Adams, his father and brother. In 1667, Roger and Joseph Adams paid 3s. 6d. a quarter to the royal aid, and the same year 6s. addition. Roger died in 1670.

To James above said Elizabeth Higgons, of Aftbury, in Hales-Owen, Shropshire, left by will an estate at Aftbury. In 1662, he was one of those persons who exhibited a bill in chancery against Edward Fryth, lord of this manor, to compel him to an agreement for enclosing waste ground at Fotherley, in which business they succeeded in 1682. In 1667, he settled in trust to Thomas Ward, of Shenstone, gent. and Henry Sedgwick, Smallfield field-piece, New Meadow, Broad Meadow, twelve acres in Broadfield, Highfield, and Pleck Moss-field, as a dower for Mary his wife, daughter of — Sedgewick. In the reign of Charles II. (1673) Rowland Fryth, Walter Fowler, of Penford; Thomas Scott, of Great Barr; and Charles Hinton, vintner, of London, upon the payment of 50l. to Rowland Fryth, confirmed James Adams's right to land in Radley Moor.

In 1634 Priest sold lands to Walter Fowler, in Fotherley. Priest had sold lands here to Anne Darleston, of Elford, which the said Walter, in 1691, assigned over in trust for Jac. Adams, son of James, as appears in a deed tripartite between Walter Fowler, of Penford, on the first part; William Priest on the second; and John Day, of Sutton-Colefield, and Jac. Adams, on the third part; for which the last-named person was to pay 6d. yearly chief rent. In 1692, Walter Fowler re-purchased part of the same estate; which Walter was descended of William Fowler, who married the daughter and heir (Cecily) to Nicolas de Englefield, grandson of Richard, of Foxley in Buckinghamshire, in the reigns of Henry V. and Henry VI. William by Cecily Englefield had issue; 1. Richard, chancellor of the dutchy of Lancaster, whose son and heir, Sir Richard, in

1528, was of Rycot in Oxfordshire: 2. Thomas, esquire of the body to king Edward IV. of whom came Walter Fowler, of Penford in Staffordshire.

James Adams, son of James, was born in 1674. In 1688 he, or his father, levied a fine for his Birches piece; that year he bought lands named Bromley Riddings, of John Darby, of Little Aston, and lands in the Pleck Mofs; also lands called the Bothams, with some parts of Highfield and Broadfield, and then possessed Dukesfield, in Fotherley, and land in Little Sutton. In 1690, he purchased a messuage and lands in the Oldfield, Netherfield near Pickharefield, in the Broadfield, and Highfield; a croft in this hamlet; and a piece in Wood-end, part of the Bothams, of Abraham Griffin, Edward Jackson, of Little Hay, and Susan, sister of Abraham, left them by John Sylvester, deceased. In 1691, he purchased of William and Elizabeth Priest, Webb'scroft lands in Smallfield, near James Sylvester's and John Yardley's, adjoining to the Broadfield, in the Broadfield, on Radley Moor Flatts, and in the Moor, Webb's flatt, in the Great and Little Pleckmoft, on Hare-hedge, and in the Oldfield. In 1713, James Adams bought two burgages in Sandfordstreet, Lichfield; and sold Smallfield piece to Richard Smyth. Dying without issue, his sisters were his heirs, of whom Elizabeth sold * her moiety at Fotherley to Joseph Alsop, and died in 1738.

Joseph Alsop was of Little Hay, of a family that had lands there in the year 1659. His estate at Fotherley descended to his four daughters, Anne, wife of John Collins, of Hints; Elizabeth, wife of William Whywell, of Birmingham; Sarah, wife of John Cooke, who had this mansion in his wife's right; and

* 5 George II.

Eleanor, wife of Rowland Collins, of Little Hay, to whom this house passed, with lands about it, by agreement; and at present is in his widow and son.

In this hamlet William Sylvester had a house and farm, which went with his daughter and heir in marriage to Thomas Hinkes, of Anstrey in Leicestershire, from whom the lands passed by purchase to John Dolphyn and Stephen Sympson, but the house was burnt by accident.

Thomas Biddulph, of Fotherley; owned lands in Broadfield and Fotherley; now in his sons, Thomas and John, both of Whitacre in Warwickshire.

R A D L E Y M O O R.

Radley Moor End is a small hamlet, with few houses, but containing in it the Moor, commonly reckoned at 340 acres, though both are more usually comprized under Fotherley, to which they adjoin, as they do upon the Aston road to Wood-end.

In the year 1662, James Adams, of Fotherley, and others, who had a right of common in the waste-ground called Radley Moor, entered into an agreement (as it should seem, upon some condition before made between them and the lord of the manor, to exhibit a bill in the High Court of Chancery, to oblige Edward Fryth, esq. lord of the manor of Shenstone, to consent

sent to the enclosing of the said Moor; to this the Court of Chancery assented, and a commission was thereupon issued out (after a decree was made), setting forth each person's share, and commissioners were deputed for that purpose; conveyances were likewise ordered to be drawn; but before they could be executed the said Edward Fryth, esq. died. Upon the decease of the lord of the manor, the fee-simple was in Rowland Fryth, of Thornes Hall, esq. son and heir of Edward, who, in 1682, April 7, as appears by an indenture made between him and James Adams, confirmed the agreement made with his brother, according to a decree of the Court of Chancery, by which Radley Moor should have been divided in eighteen equal parts, of which William Thornton and James Sylvester, of Weeford, were to have two parts; and one part to be disposed of for the use of the poor, as the major part of the owners should from time to time appoint, each division paying 6d. yearly, *viz.* 3d. upon the 25th of March; and 3d. upon St. Michael's day, to Edward and Rowland Fryth, their heirs and assigns, for ever. John Birch, of Little Aston, had one share, who, after the enclosure, but before a conveyance was made to him by Edward or Rowland Fryth, esqrs. borrowed 120l. of William Petty, of Fasely in Warwickshire, gent. and for securing it and interest, the said John, and Elizabeth his mother, upon the 20th of March in the 23d year of the reign of king Charles II. amongst other lands, &c. sold and passed over his share of Radley Moor, being 16 acres; William Petty conveyed his right to James Adams; and, as 50l. was paid to Edward Fryth, according to a covenant before made, and 50l. more to Rowland Fryth, esq. the said Rowland passed it for ever to James Adams, and his heirs, paying 6d. yearly, free from all claims under Edward his father, or Rowland his grandfather, deceased; James Adams
was

was also allowed seven years to confirm his title, at his own expence; and Rowland Fryth hereby reserved to himself the liberty to turn the water, and make trenches and bridges on the said land.

John Dolphyn, of Shenstone, gent. and Edward Thornton, of Foothery, were appointed jointly to give and take possession, dated April 7, 1682. Rowland Fryth sealed and delivered in the presence of John Swynfen, Joseph Surton, and George Bulkley. Edward Thornton gave James Adams possession; present Edward Thornton, jun. Robert Thornton, W. Whifton, and Thomas Lander.

The several portions allotted were by agreement to consist of twelve acres, though they are considerably more; that called Birches, is in the deed said to be sixteen acres, owing, as supposed, to his advancing more than his equivalent towards the law-suit with the lord of the manor. The whole of Radley Moor, generally speaking, is in the hands of the following persons, *viz.* John Dolphyn, esq. who hath the parts which were Stanley's, Brown's, Floyer's or Lea's, Sylvester's or Hynke's (except what Stephen Sympson, gent. possesses), and what was lately in the tenure of John Biddulph; of Thomas and Noel Hill, esqrs., formerly Allen's, and others; of Stephen Sympson, gent. or Charles his son, formerly Fletcher's and Vere's, with lands in Radley Moor-end; of William Tenant, esq. called Thornton's, &c. of the coheirs of Adams and Alsop, who enjoyed also Birches; of Morton Stanley's heirs; of John Marlow, late William's, formerly Priest's. Robert Sylvester's land in this Moor came to Lake his son (except what — Hill, esq. purchased), whose widow passed it to her second husband, — Shackle, who, with — Bedford their son-in-law, sold

it to John Dolphyn, esq. in 1768. In the reign of king William III. James Philips possessed some part of Radley Moor; as did John Sylvester, and ——— Dolie.

B A G O T S.

Bagots are certain lands lying to the upper part of Footherley, towards the aforesaid Moor, in quantity fifty acres; they were formerly the property of Edward Fryth, esq. and were by him, or some of his family, conveyed to John Dolphyn, great grandfather to the present John Dolphyn, of the Moss, whose property they are.

L I T T L E H A Y.

Little Hay is an hamlet, one mile South from Shenstone church, and is not only the confines of the parish, but of the county of Stafford towards Warwickshire, Sutton Colefield reaching on this side to the road * between Little Aston and Weeford. The hamlet is but of mean appearance, having in it eleven houses, chiefly of poor folks.

* Through Little Hay.

The name seems to have been given it to distinguish it from the larger Hay, called in old writings *Ashe Hay*, near it.

The Thickbromes * seem to have been a very old family in or near this place, taking their name from a manor in Weeford on the Blackbrooke, one mile only from Little Hay.

Richard de Thickbrome was a person of note in this place, (40 Henry III.), and owned the manor so named. In 1635, William Thickbrome, gent. of the city of Lichfield, and Mary his wife, had issue William; and, in 1638, Thomas, as I should suppose a branch of this family, settled at Little Hay during the Usurpation, for, in 1655, Ralph Thickbrome settled lands upon Margaret Cook of this village, on a covenant of marriage drawn up between them, to which were evidences Robert Greifbrook, Edward Fletcher, and others. In 1667, Ralph Thickbrome, of Little Hay, was one of those persons who were assessed to the payment of the royal aid.

John Thickbrome of this place, in the reign of king Charles II. and Margaret his wife, purchased lands in Little Hay of the two lords of Shenstone manor, which came afterwards into the possession of William Bryan, of Thickbrome, and Isabel his wife. Bryan's heir sold these lands to Walter Rawlins, who, in 1672, October 15, passed them, or a part of them, to Thomas Alsop, to which were witnesses, John Lane, Thomas Potte, Edward Gerard, and Thomas Stephenson. William and Richard Dixey, by deed, gave consent to the sale of the estate by Bryan's heir.

On April 13, in the 13th year of the reign of Charles II. William Dixe, or Dixey, of Sheldon, and Richard Dixe of Sut-

* Humphry Thickbrome, of Thickbrome (18 Eliz.), paid 3l. 6s. 8d. subsidy, and found one horseman for the militia.

ton Colefield, fold to Walter Rawlins lands adjoining to that of Ralph Thickbrome, and Sir John Digby's, of Mansfield Woodhouse in Nottinghamshire, near to Shenstone Park, late in the tenure of John Thickbrome. Witnessed by Dorothy Lake, Catharine Thickbrome, and others.

William Cotterel, of Sutton Colefield, and Phillis Thickbrome, were married at Shenstone, August 1, 1786.

In Little Hay lately lived Richard *Arblaster*, and still belongs to this parish, descended of an ancient family in the county of Stafford, which derives its name from its office in war, *Arcubalistarius*, or *Arblaster* (Archer). Arblaster hall, in Longdon, was, in the 25th year of the reign of Edward III. the seat of Adam de Arblaster, who was witness, 35 of that king, to the deed of Richard Fitzwilliam Hanways de Hanfacre conveying lands in Aldershall, near Lichfield, to Eleanora de Hanfacre. His son and heir was James (in the reign of Richard II.) who had issue Richard, in the reign of Henry VII.* He married Matilda, sister of Sir Lewis Bagot, knight, and daughter of John Bagot, of Blythfield, esq. by whom he had issue Humphry Arblaster, of Longdon, and Rowland, or Richard. Humphry (in the reign of Henry VIII.), by Catharine his wife, daughter of Thomas Laynham, of Staffordshire, esq. had issue a son Thomas, in the reign of Edward VI. who married — daughter of — Martyn, and had issue, 1. George; 2. John; 3. Michael; also 3 daughters; Jane, wife of William Holland, of Caldwell in Derbyshire; Alice; and Frances, wife of Richard Callangwood. George, in 1583, possessed Arblaster hall, other lands in Longdon, Dosthill, and Mancestre, in Warwickshire; but, Thomas his father, in the reign of Edward VI. sold his share of Mancester manor, which came into the family before the 11th year of the reign of Henry VI. to Thomas Lewis, gent. George Arblaster,

blaster, esq. had issue Thomas *, who took to wife Anne, daughter of Ralph Egerton, esq. of Wrine Hill, and had issue by her Edmund, and Edward, father of Edward, who died in May 1669, leaving children by Anne his wife (who died in 1693), daughter of Francis Wolfrestan, of Stafford, esq. by Frances his wife, 1. Edward; 2. Edmund; 3. Richard; also 5 daughters; Frances, who died in 1772; Ann died in 1734; Mary, who died in 1738; and Grace, who deceased in 1731-2; Susanna died March 4, 1740; another Mary died November 1, 1741, whom I take to have been the wife of William Arblaster †, a younger son of George above said, who, by Mary his wife, had a daughter, Mary, born in 1653, but died in her minority. Edward, eldest son of Edward, by Ann Wolverstan, died without issue. Edmund, of Longdon, esq. (or as is sometimes said Edward) had issue George, born in 1666; Edmund ‡, in 1666-7, and died in 1670; Frances, born September 6, 1662; and Mary, born in 1674. This Edward, the father, died in March 1690, aged 63. Edmund had issue Edward, born in January 1699; 2. Edmund in January 1701-2; 3. Theophilus, born in March 1703, and died in 1721, and, as I conjecture, another son Richard; Mary, born in 1709. This Edmund was in the commission of the peace, and died in 1732. Edward, his eldest son, died in 1735, who left one only son, of Over Stonall (1769), yet unmarried. This gentleman, in 1769, sold to Francis Cobbe, of Lichfield, esq. a capital messuage, the old family seat in Longdon, upon which was a modern-built mansion-house, with 82 acres of rich arable, pasture, and meadow

* Admitted by the heralds, 1583, to be of a genteel descent, and to bear a coat.

† William died in 1703, aged 89.

‡ Or Edward.

land;

land; a messuage, with 180 acres elsewhere, and a farm called Stoney Well, with upwards of 72 acres of land in the same parish.

One of the Richard Arblasters had children; a son or grandson of which is Richard, of whom we first spoke, and who resided in Little Hay, whose family is next male representative of the ancient family, whose lineage we have given.

Arms of the Arblasters; Ermine, a cross-bow bent, Gules, stringed Or. Crest, a greyhound's head upon a wreath.

A branch of the Thorntons, spoken of in Fotherley, lived in Little Hay, and possessed lands here, of which was Nicolas, living in 1665; and, after him Thomas, whose estate came into the family of Collins, yet remaining, descended from Robert Collins, who had issue John, Rowland, and others. John had issue Rowland, father or uncle to Rowland of Little Hay, who died in December 1767, leaving issue John and Rowland; also two daughters; —, wife of Robert Collins, of Hintz, related before to this family, and —.

The family of Collins possess the estate formerly Walter Webster's, John Asplin's, and John Smart's, in this village, and a moiety of Alsop's, with a large mansion in Fotherley.

In this place I find a gentleman's family called *Potte*, of which was Thomas Potte in 1667. How long they continued here is uncertain, but one of them married Joan, eldest daughter of the reverend William Grace, vicar of Shenstone, as we have already remarked.

The *Alsops* were of note in this hamlet, originally of Alsop, a village in the county of Derby, whence the name.

In the 12th year of the reign of Charles II. Rowland Alsop, of Little Hay, purchased a tenement and lands there from Ro-

ger Walker, and Edmund Wharton, both of Moseley, to which were evidences Alexander and Thomas Ward, with Richard Newton. The same premises were sold to R. Walker and Edward Wharton, by Thomas Collins, and Joyce his wife, who bought them of the lords of the manor of Shenstone. In 1667 Thomas and Rowland Alfop paid to the royal aid levied in this parish.

In 1671 Rowland, and Anne his wife, passed over a messuage and lands in Little Hay to Thomas their son (living in 1687), which was witnessed by Thomas Ward and John Cotterel.

In the third year of the reign of James II. Richard Alfop, of Brynton in Staffordshire, sold lands in Nether Stonhall to Alexander Adcock. In 1692, Joseph Alfop, of Little Hay (living in 1713), paid 2s. poll-tax for himself and his wife. He had issue Thomas, to whom, in 1706, he passed Katescroft, and other fields, near Little Hay Brook; and Joseph, who, in 5 George II. bought a moiety of James Adams's estate at Footherley of Elizabeth Adams, his daughter and coheir; also two daughters, Alice, and Elizabeth, if no more. In 1713 Joseph Alfop the elder sold to William Stanley, of Shenstone, Leatscroft, &c. for the term of 99 years. Besides these, we meet with Richard Nicolas, Thomas, and Henry * Alfop (living in 1684), in this place. Joseph Alfop the younger died without issue male, but left four daughters, coheirs, two of which are living, Elizabeth Whywell, one of them, died in 1769.

In the reign of Henry VIII. or earlier, a branch of the *Sylvesters* resided here. In 1579, James Sylvester, of Little Hay,

* In the 20th year of the reign of Charles II. he purchased an estate at Hill in Sutton Colefield.

married Alice, daughter of — Collins, and had issue by her Robert, Alice, wife of John Adams, and Elizabeth. In 1601, George Sylvester was of this hamlet; also Nicolas was of Little Hay, as I conjecture his son. He had issue Samuel, born in 1669; Mary and Elizabeth, born in 1672. In 1667, the widow of — Sylvester, of this place, paid to the assessment for the royal aid. The name continued till lately at Little Hay, but nothing particular is said of this family.

Little Hay I look upon to be the boundary of a park lying in part of Sutton chace, South of Shenstone park. It is certain, that in this neighbourhood, and adjoining to Little Hay, was a thick wood of considerable extent in 1086, the year that Robert de Limesi succeeded to the united sees of Chester and Lichfield, called *Ash Hay-wood*, at that time the estate of Henry de Newburgh, a Norman, first earl of Warwick after the Conquest, younger son of Roger de Beaumont, earl of Mellent, and baron de Pont Audemar in Normandy. The late Thomas Wilkes, of Willenhall in Staffordshire, M. D. says, in his Collections, that in the 7th or 17th year of the reign of Edward I. William de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, granted a licence to Robert de Limesi, bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, to make a park here of his wood called Ash Hay, which was then part of Sutton Colefield chace. But here are some mistakes, there being no Robert de Limesi bishop of these dioceses in the reign of Edward I. however, we find, that William de Beauchamp, first earl of Warwick of this great family (son of William de Beauchamp, baron of Elmeley castle, in the county of Worcester, generally called the Blind Baron), granted a licence, as the lord of the fee, to Ralph de Limesi to make a park of his wood called Ash Hay.

Near

Near this place, or rather nearer to Weeford, it was that lord Lisle and Sir Hugh Willoughby fought a duel, in which Sir Hugh was sorely wounded, but he seems to have been less pitted, as he had before slain in a duel — Purefoy, a person of note in the quarrel between the kings Henry VI. and Edward IV.

A family named *Aldrich* have long possessed lands in Little Hay; for in 1692 the widow Aldrich, of this village, paid to the poll-tax. About seven years since died Robert Aldrich, of Middleton in Warwickshire, owner of this estate, leaving male issue. John Aldrich, and Alice his wife, of Little Hay, in 1703. Mary their daughter died in 1704.

B O S S E S.

The *Bosses* (so named from *Boscus*, which means a wood, or a place of pasture and feeding) lie two miles South-West of Shennstone church, consisting of more than 200 acres of land, bounded by Radley-more, the Peat-more, and Fotherley, but stretching out two ways towards the fields leading to Nether Stonall and Little Aston. Upon these *Bosses* are three mansions, one of which, now in the tenure of Joseph Swift, with lands appertaining to it, is the property of the reverend — Avern, vicar of Rugeley, in right of his church, for which it was purchased for a sum of money added to that augmentation-money called queen Anne's bounty. This house is in the old manner of building, half timber, erected probably by Thomas Foley, esq. who resided here in the time of Charles II. in order to attend his works at Aston forge, to which it adjoins. This gentleman seems to have

have been the person, who, in 1645, was taken into custody by order of the committee then sitting at Stafford, and released upon the engagement of — Simcox, a parliamentarian, that Foley should pay 150l. due from him to Giffard. The same Mr. Foley then being indebted 400l. on bond to — Gough, of Wolverhampton, a delinquent, was discharged from that obligation by the committee, upon his giving security (January 1.) to pay 200l. at Midsummer next ensuing to the committee, of which number I find William Foley, esq. but know not whether he was related to Thomas Foley of Aston Forge. The next possessor of this estate was — King; now, as we observed, it belongs to Rugely church.

The most considerable mansion at the Boffes is that in the tenure of William Hardwick, under William Tenant, esq. formerly the estate of this William Hardwick's father (of the same name), by purchase from the family of Fryth. The family of these Hardwicks were long settled at the More-house in Pittingham. Their ancestor Martin Hardwick, of the Mores, gentleman, was in the civil war in the reign of Charles I. plundered more than once for his adherence to the Royalists, and particularly by captain William Gough's men from Wolverhampton garrison; the said Martin Hardwick was also obliged to attend the committee at Stafford as a delinquent, and to advance 5l. upon the propositions to raise four hundred thousand pounds in the county of Stafford. William Hardwick, of the Boffes, in 1692 paid 4s. poll-tax for himself, his wife, and two children; and, in 1721, was one of the persons that were active to recover Granada Brown's legacy to this parish.

The lord of the manor owns the greatest part of these lands; the remainder is in the hands of John Dolphyn, Stephen Symphon

son of Lichfield (formerly Joseph Vere's and Thomas Dickinson's), Edward Milner, who possesses the other mansion, upon the other land called the Boffes, and others.

Near, are lands in this parish named the *White Quail*, formerly ——— Harrison's and Eleanor Wigan's; late reverend Edward Shaw's, of Wolverhampton, who hath conveyed them (in 1769) to Joseph Wood, of Walsal, with other estates.

L I T T L E A S T O N .

The last hamlet we speak of in the Shenstone division is *Aston Parva*, so named to distinguish it from Aston or East Town Magna, near Birmingham. This village is situate three miles and a half South-West from Shenstone, upon ground rising gradually all the way from the latter place, in which district it is reputed, and at such a distance from it, on account of the brook that rises upon the chace beyond Aston, passing through the whole parish, and thereby separating it into two parts; Shenstone side of the Bourne, and Stonall side of the same river.

The owner of the chief manor in Aston claims a right as lord of this manor, exclusive of Shenstone, and extending itself considerably

siderably upon Sutton Colefield chace, for which there seems to be some reason, seeing Thomas Mereton, of Aston, esq. and William Fryth, of Shenstone, esq. joined as lords of the manor in enfranchising lands in the hamlet of Footherley, for the advantage of John Adams, in the 3d year of the reign of king Charles I; also in 1664 (16 Charles II.), Thomas Scott, of Aston, is named with Edward Fryth, and two other persons, as granting privileges to Edward Thornton, in Footherley aforesaid, yet it is equally certain, that the inhabitants of Little Aston acknowledge the lord of Shenstone manor, passing suit, and doing service at the court-leet and court-baron of William Tenant, esq. Andrew Hacket, esq. who claims the rights of a manor in Aston, and the lands in the hamlet, with more in Colefield, and a portion acquired by purchase from the manor of Aldrich, informed me, that courts were formerly held at Aston, to which the inhabitants come to do suit and service; and further affirmed, that several rolls of this kind were in the hands of —— Sadler, gent. his agent, who also assured me of the same. The abovesaid portion of land taken out of Aldrich manor, and annexed to Aston Parva, was sold by Edward Mountford, esq. lord of it, to Sir Robert Ducie, of Aston-hall.

Rugeway, or Ridgway, upon the Colefield, or Colmesfield, was in early times the boundary between Sutton and Shenstone parishes towards Aston hamlet, as appears from a prosecution commenced in the 17th year of the reign of Edward I. by Elias le Collier, for the recovery of three hundred pounds, of which he was robbed in the said road or rugeway, which, it is expressed, divided the counties of Warwick and Stafford, leaving Sutton, Aston juxta, and Birmingham, on the one side, and Barre, Alrewick, with part of Shenstone, upon the Staffordshire side. Elias le Collier had judgement to recover his money,

ney, and writs were directed to the sheriffs of both shires to levy the said sum.

At the distance of half a mile from the ancient mansion, and half a mile from the present hall, stood a chapel dedicated to St. Peter, subject to Shenstone as a chapel of ease; and, no doubt, as persons of great fortune and character long resided here, and seeing the tythes were, as far as we can understand, always separated from Shenstone, was, in a great measure, independent of the parish church. Lately remained some ruins of a building on a ground rising gradually from the old hall near the present grove, which might be either of the chapel, or the minister's house, with a covered well, and a barn, yet standing. The land upon which the church stood is to this day called the Chapel-piece, and belongs to Andrew Hacket, of Sutton Colefield, esq. in right of his wife, daughter of Richard Scott, esq. Richard de Aston, whom I look upon to have been lord of this place in the 35th year of the reign of Edward III. was witness to a deed of Richard Fitzwilliam; Hanway de Handsacre passing lands in Alderhall, near Lichfield, to Eleonora de Handsacre.

The Fowkes, persons of note, were possessed of this seat and manor in 1583. On a visitation of the heralds at arms, Thomas Fowke*, esq. of Aston Parva, was admitted to bear a coat, as a gentleman by descent. Simon Degge, the antiquary, also mentions this family to have been owners of Little Aston. They possessed Gunston, Handsacre, Brewood, Batchacre, lands in Gnosall, and other places in Staffordshire; also in Drymerson in Gloucestershire, and Middlesex: in all likelihood they had their name from Fowke Grange in Staffordshire.

William Fowke, of Brewood, had issue two sons, Roger and John. Roger, by his wife, daughter and heir of John Wy-

* And John Fowkes of Gunstone.

baston, had William, who married Jane, daughter of John Streethy, of Streetway near Lichfield, esq., and had issue Edward, a priest; and Roger, who took to wife Margery, daughter to John Whorwood, of Compton, esq. By her he had a son William, who married Jane, daughter of James Levison, of Wolverhampton, esq. and was father of Roger, who, by Joan, daughter and coheir of Roger Fowke, of Gunston, had issue Thomas (as I suppose, of Little Aston), and four daughters; Mary, wife of Henry James, of Baddesley; 2. Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Congreve, whom she survived, and afterwards married Thomas Green, esq. 3. Mary *, wife of John Aldeyn, of London, esq. (who died in 1665; she died in 1679-80) by whom she had John, and three daughters; Barbara, Catharine, and Elizabeth; 4. Joyce, wife of Edward Dickinson, of Bradley.

John, son of the first William, of Brewood, by Agnes, daughter and heir of John Newman de Gunstone (who bore Sable, a fess wavy, between 6 dolphins, Argent), had issue William, who married Elizabeth, daughter to Roger Swynnerton, esq. and had issue Humphry and Thomas, who, by Margery daughter to Robert Lane, of Hyde, had a son Robert; he married Mary, daughter to lord Zouch of Harringworth, by whom he had a son Arthur. Also William had a third son, Roger Fowke, who, by Cassandra, daughter to William Humfreston, had issue John; who, by Anne his wife, daughter to John Bradshaw, of Windley, had four sons; 1. Roger, who, by Margaret, daughter to Richard Morton, of Houghton, had issue five daughters; 1. Joan, wife of Roger Fowke, of Brewood, esq. 2. Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Congreve, of Sewerden; 3. Joyce; 4. Catharine; 5. Jane;

* See Register, and monuments in Stow church, near Lichfield.

2. Francis, who married Elizabeth, daughter to — Comines, and to his second wife Jane, daughter to John Ransford, of Tew, relict of William Cusper; 3. William, who married —, daughter and heir of — Dyfon, esq. 4. Thomas, who married twice; first, to Elizabeth, daughter to John Watts; secondly, to —, daughter to — Cooper, of Enborn, he had issue Thomas, father of Richard; Anne (who married, and had issue Sufanna); and Elizabeth. Robert Fowke, of Sinesburgh in Derbyshire, married Mary, daughter of Richard Zouch of Staffordale, in Somersetshire, by whom he had issue Charles, who died at Newhaven in 1563; Arthur, William, George, Henry, Anne, and Elizabeth.

We add farther, that John Fowke, in 1583, of Gunstone, was allowed to be a gentleman, and to bear arms. Thomas Fowke, esq. of Brewood, and Ferrers, his son, were possessed of lands in Little Wyrley, in the 11th year of the reign of Charles I. Roger Fowke, gent. had a son John, born 1593-4; and Roger, another son, born in 1598.

Gerard Fowke was a captain in the royal army in the Civil War under Charles I. and afterwards was, with another gentleman of the same name, and a sufferer in the same cause, whose feat was at Batchacre Grange, obliged to, compound for his estate with the usurpers. In 1643-4, the wife of the said captain Gerard Fowke suffered in the loss of her cattle, which were seized by captain H. Stone; to redeem them she was ordered to pay down 30l. January 6, and to advance 20l. more upon the 27th of that month, for a protection; not being able in those troublesome times to raise that sum, 10l. was taken; yet was she again plundered; for February 8 the committee at Stafford, on complaint being made, ordered captain Jackson and lieutenant Hall to restore a horse of her's seized at Gnowfall. On the

17th of September in the same year, four more cattle were taken from her, but restored. In December 1644, the horses of — Fowke were seized, and returned upon the payment of 10l. to the committee; that year Thomas Fowke, esq. of Brewood, was compelled (for the use of the parliamentarians) to find two horses worth 14l. to pay 15l. in money, and to promise 28l. more within a month. Dorothy, widow of John Fowke, of Gunston, received some allowance from the committee about the same time, upon a petition, that her son Francis, serjeant-major in colonel Martin's regiment, fell in the parliament's service, and had left nine small children.

John Fowke, in 1643, was one of the sheriffs for the city of London, and in 1661 member of parliament for the same.

In later times we find William Fowke, of Cannock, gent. (George II.) who had issue Joseph, born in 1748; George, in 1752; Anne, who died in 1746; Ellen, born in 1754; and Anne, in 1764; but the principal line was continued in — Fowke, esq. of Wyrley Parva, lord of the manor of Brewood, who had issue — Fowke, M. D. (well known in the learned world as a person of merit; he practised some time as a physician, but when his estates fell to him he gave all his prescriptions gratis; at length he was chosen president of the college of physicians in London); and three daughters, of which the eldest was wife of — Hufsey, of London, who had by her Phineas*, that married — daughter of William Jeffon, of Lichfield, gent. and sister of William Jeffon, counsellor in the law; which Phineas became, in right of his mother, one of the coheirs to the learned — Fowke, M. D. He had issue Phineas Hufsey of Little Wyrley, esq. and a daughter Isabella, both

* Fowke.

unmarried; also three other sons, Fowke, surgeon and apothecary; Joseph; and Richard, a linen-draper in Wolverhampton, who, by ———, daughter of ——— Becket, hath one son and one daughter. The second sister of the physician was married to John Holland, gent. father, by her, of John Holland, of Shrewsbury, M. D. The youngest sister was wife of Robert Huntbach, of Wolverhampton, gent. whose daughter, wife of Helliere, esq. had issue an only son, Sir Samuel Helliier, of Woodhouse, near Womburn in Staffordshire, knight, late high-sheriff for the county of Worcester, yet unmarried. The present Phineas Hufsey, esq. is lord of a third part of Norton, Little Worley, in Norton, Brown Hills, lands in Landy-wood, near Cannock; Brewood hall, and its appurtenances, he sold in 1766, to Plymley, gent. The family, for two or three hundred years, had Ogley Hay, one-third of which came to Fowke Hufsey, and either is at present in Phineas Hufsey, esq. or in Richard Gildart, esq. lord of the manor of Norton under Cannock, by purchase.

We also add, that John Holland * lived at Brewood hall, was a man of abilities, and had another son Fowke, linen draper in Salop.

Arms of Fowke de Brewood; Vert, a fleur de liz, Argent; of Gunstone, the same, with a crescent for difference.

The next possessors of Little Aston were the Ducies, by purchase from the Fowkes, whose family I shall take some pains to speak of, because Simon Degge, who wrote in the reign of Charles II. in his spleen says, that alderman Ducy's son would take it ill not to be wrote *esquire*.

* He was also justice of the peace.

The family came out of Normandy, and had its estates in the county of Stafford from the time of king Edward II. when ————
 Ducey, their ancestor, raised a regiment for queen Isabel against that king, out of the Normans his countrymen, and was, most probably, after the deposing that unfortunate prince, rewarded with lands in England.

..... Ducey, in the reign of Henry VII. had issue James, who married Alice, daughter of Sir Richard Pye, of Belton in the county of Derby, knight (son of Richard Pye, of Wolverhampton, esq. and father of Sir Richard Pye, sheriff of London in 1572, and lord mayor in 1578.); his second son, Henry, married Mary, daughter and heir of Robert Hardy, esq. and had issue Robert, a considerable person in 1618, being then a citizen of London, and alderman of Baffishaw ward. At his own expence he glazed one of the windows of St. Lawrence Jury church, in which parish he lived (others of the inhabitants finishing the rest), was of the merchant-tailors company, one of the sheriffs for the city in 1620, knighted in 1628-9, lord mayor in the year 1630-1, created a baronet in the 5th year of the reign of Charles I. by letters patent, dated November 28. This Sir Robert was a considerable benefactor to St. James's church, and to St. Trinity in Aldgate, London, being present at the dedication of the latter, and was the same person to whom, as an encourager of learning and merit, was dedicated by an anonymous author, under the initial letters A. M. * the edition of Stowe's Annals in folio, published in 1633. Being immensely rich, king Charles I. made choice of him for his banker, and at the beginning of the Civil War was indebted to him eighty thousand pounds, all which he lost; at his decease, however, he left 40,000l. and upwards, to his children. By his wife, Eliza-

* Anthony Munday.

beth,

beth, daughter of Richard Pyott, alderman of London, he had issue four sons, William, Hugh, Richard, and Robert.

Sir Robert, baronet, bore, Argent, a fess vaire Argent and Azure, between 3 cinquefoils pierced, 2 and 1, in a chief, a right hand coupéd at the wrist.

Of Hugh I find no more, than that he was created in the month of April 1661, one of the knights of the Holy Trinity, usually called knights of the Bath.

Sir William succeeded his father in the title of baronet, and in 1661 was created knight of the Bath the same day with Sir Hugh his brother. He lived some time at Little Aston, and was succeeded in the title of baronet by his brother Sir Richard, who was also resident at Aston hall, for, in 1667, Richard Ducey, of Aston, twice paid towards the assessment for the royal aid. August 29, 1679, we find the same person, or one of the name, buried at Shenstone *.

Of Robert, the youngest, we learn †, that Sir Robert Ducey his father, alderman of London, purchased Little Aston of — Fowke, and gave it to Robert Ducey, his youngest son; this must have happened in king Charles the First's reign, seeing, in December 1643, this Robert Ducey, esq. of Aston, was taken into custody by order of the committee at Stafford ‡, as a person no way devoted to serve the parliament's designs, and not released till he had given his promise, and a note under his hand, either to return to Stafford as a prisoner within one month, or to send the committee 100l.; the note I have seen, and it bears date January 6, 1643-4. This gentleman married Mary, daughter of Sir Gabriel Lowe, of Newark, in the county of Gloucester, knight, by whom, as I conjecture, he had Robert and

* See Register.

† See Degge.

‡ Committee notes; pen. Dom. Burks de Aldershaw.

Richard, who died, as above said, in 1679; otherwise it will be difficult to reconcile the parish register with Collins's Peerage, who calls Sir William and Sir Richard Duce, baronets, uncles to Sir Robert Duce's daughter and heir; also a daughter named Elizabeth. We are pretty certain his wife survived him, and re-married * to Thomas Jolliffe, of Coston in the county of Worcester, esq. and was buried at Shentone in 1663; a lady of great goodness, and fine accomplishments.

Robert Duce, of Aston, esq. was buried at Shentone, May 14, 1664, which person I look upon to have been son of Robert aforesaid, and grandson of Sir Robert, first baronet of this line.

Another Robert lived at Aston hall in 1673.

We observe in addition to the above account, that Sir Robert Duce, baronet, among other estates, purchased Wickware, a large and corporate town in Gloucestershire, of the Delawars, which went to Sir William Duce, his grandson, created lord viscount Downe, in the kingdom of Ireland, who leaving no issue, his sister became his heir, and married to Mr. Moreton.

The Moretons have long possessed the lordship of Engleton, in the county of Stafford. In 1583, upon the visitation of the heralds at arms, Adam Moreton, of Wilbroughton, and Edward, of Engleton, were allowed to be gentlemen by descent, and to bear a coat.

In the 3d, 4th †, and 14th, years of the reign of Charles I. Thomas Moreton, of Engleton, esq. as lord of Shentone, jointly with William Fryth, of Murival in the county of Warwick, passed or enfranchised lands in this parish to several persons, particularly in Nether Stonall and Fotherley, in which last deed he is named son of Edward Moreton, of Engleton, also

* This does not appear in the Jolliffe pedigree in Dr. Nash's Worcestershire, I. p. 251.

† Chart. penes meipsum.

in Little Hay. In May 1644, — Moreton, of Engleton, esq. was imprisoned by the committee at Stafford, and orders given him to pay 100*l.* and if not done in a week, that he should be distrained. In the reign of king Charles II. colonel Edward Moreton resided at Little Aston.

Robert Ducie, the fourth son of Sir Robert *, had only Elizabeth, his daughter and heir; heir also to Sir Richard and Sir William Ducie, baronets, her uncles. She was married to Edward Moreton, of Moreton and Engleton, in the county of Stafford. Matthew Ducie Moreton, their son, was on June 13, 1720, created by king George I. baron Ducie, of Moreton, in the county of Stafford. He died in 1736 †, and was succeeded in the title and estate by Matthew, his son; but his eldest sister, Elizabeth, having, February 5, 1729, married to Francis Reynolds, esq. son to Thomas Reynolds, formerly a South-Sea director, the reversion of the honour is settled upon her issue by the said Francis Reynolds.

Arms of lord Ducie Moreton, Argent, a chevron, Gules, between three square buckles Sable: Crest, out of a wreath a demi moorcock displayed, proper, comb and wattles, Gules: Supporters, two Unicorns, Argent, armed, mained, tufted, and hooped, Or, gorged with a ducal coronet, party per pale, Or and Gules. Motto, *Perseverando*.

In 1663 resided at Little Aston Thomas Jolliff (whence his wife was brought to be interred), but whether as his home, or on a visit, is not very certain.

We add, though a little out of its place, that Richard Ducie, esq. of Frocester in Gloucestershire, was an active royalist in the Civil War, in the time of Charles I. and when his party was

* Collins's Peerage.

† May 2, 1735. Collins.

crushed,

crushed, besides his other losses and sufferings, was obliged to pay the usurpers, as a composition for his estate and to live unmolested, the sum of 846 l.

To the Antiquary I offer an earlier pedigree of the Moretons. Geoffrey Moreton de Moreton, in the 9th year of the reign of king Edward II. (so called from a low marshy ground) besides other estates, had a moiety of Church-over manor, in the county of Warwick. Thomas de Moreton (in the reign of Henry VIII.) had Atherston lordship upon Stour, in the same county.

— Moreton had issue Andrew Moreton, of Moreton, in the county of Stafford, who marrying — daughter of — Knightley, of Knightley in this county (and of Wyrley, near Cannock, in the 9th year of the reign of Edward II.), a younger branch of that ancient family had issue 3 sons; James, Thomas, and John, a priest. James took to wife —, daughter of — Done, of Flaxyards and Utlington, in Cheshire, and had issue by her Thomas, of Moreton, esq. whose son and heir was Adam; both living in 1583. Adam died in the 12th year of the reign of James I. seized of the manor of Moreton, with 5 messuages, and 590 acres of land there; also 5 messuages, 3 cottages, and 1200 acres of land in Wiltrinton; one of his daughters was wife of James Fowler, of Penford, esq. In the reign of queen Elizabeth Robert Moreton, of Baltrey in Staffordshire, married —, daughter of Sir John Markham, of Cotham, knight.

Thomas, second son of Andrew Moreton and — Knightly, had the lordship of Engleton in Staffordshire, which came into the family by a marriage with the heiress of that ancient house of Engleton, or Ingleton. This Thomas, by Margery his wife, daughter to — Shepherd, of Oakley, in the county of Stafford, esq. had issue two sons, Matthew and Richard; and

four daughters; 1. Elizabeth, daughter of Stapleton, of Liflewood, esq. 2. Joyce, wife of Thomas Rowley, of Hickerley, esq; 3. Alice, married to George Parsons, of Samburn in Warwickshire, esq; 4. Jane, wife of John Horne, of Stoke in Warwickshire, gent. Matthew Moreton, by Alice his wife, daughter of Thomas Dickers, of Morehall in Staffordshire, heir to her mother (Editha, daughter of Thomas Corbyn, esq. of Corbyn's-hall, a great royalist, by daughter of More, esq. of More-hall), had Edward, and five daughters; 1. Mary; 2. Constance; 3. Margaret; 4. Isabel, wife of John Egington, of Robinson in Staffordshire, esq; 5. Alice, wife of William Dickens, esq. Margaret was wife of Francis Whitwick, esq. This branch of the Moretons assumed Engleton's coat of arms. Matthew Moreton died possessed of Buckfande, a messuage in Engleton; another called Knightley's lands; two others called Gough's, one messuage in Horsebrooke, called Gough's lands; lands in Brewood and Water Eaton; three messuages in Acton; lands in Dunston, Bednall, and Penkrich, in the tenure of one Southern; in Clisby and Webb; with two parts in three of the herbage and pannage of Ogle Hay, in or near Shenstone.

After these families, Little Aston manor passed by purchase to Richard Scott, of Birmingham in Warwickshire, gent. He erected the present house in the modern style, of a neat brick, edged with polished stone, upon a swell, rising gently and gradually from the old mansion, which was in the manner of building in the reign of Charles I; half timber, in a low, moist, and unhealthy situation; a small part of it is yet standing (and is used as a stable), as it were to point out the false taste of those times. Elegant as this structure was, and fine as its situation, Mr. Scott fell into another error, customary in his days, of enclosing

closing all round him, and as it were hiding and fencing his mansion with high hedges of holly and other evergreens, which gave it a gloomy appearance; but, perhaps, the following description given of it will convey the best idea to the reader. Aston-hall, in the parish of Shenstone, is a capital modern-built house, with offices convenient for a large family; to it belongs the manor of Little Aston, and a considerable demesne of land, arable, pasture, and meadow; has four large pools of water, and several stews for fish. A noted trout-brook runs through the manor, which is in a fine sporting country, adjoining to Sutton Chace, three miles from Sutton, six from the city of Lichfield, five from Walsal, and ten from Birmingham. The house is handsome, neatly fronted and faced four ways, is four stories high, and was built by Richard Scott, esq. This gentleman was a person of much merit and humanity, known in public life by his having served the office of high-sheriff of the county with reputation, and in private by an affable deportment to all about him, and his zeal to serve and oblige the parishioners with whom he resided. He married Anne, one of the daughters of John Addyes, of Moor-hall in the parish of Sutton Colefield, esq. and died, after being sorely afflicted with the stone and gravel, aged 62, upon the 6th of June, 1734. His wife survived him, and died of a cancer in her breast, November 25, 1754, aged 65. They left issue only one daughter, Mary, born in 1713, at Aston, baptized November 20, and married February 24 next after the death of her father, to Andrew Hacket, esq. of Moxhull in the county of Warwick, to whom she carried Aston hall and other estates.

Andrew Hacket's family were settled in Lincolnshire, of which I now shall say what is come to my knowledge of their genealogy.

John

John Hacket, bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, his ancestor, was a personage of high repute for his learning and public spirit, which brought upon him great sufferings in the time of the rebellion. He was born in the Strand, Westminster, and educated in the king's school there; thence being removed to Trinity college, Cambridge, he was chosen fellow, and became a noted tutor to the children of many great families. Going into holy orders, he was chaplain to Dr. Williams, bishop of Lincoln, and lord chancellor of England; afterwards chaplain to king James I. rector of Holborn, London, and of Cheam, in Surrey; in 1624, archdeacon of Bedford, also canon residentiary and prebendary of Mora in the church of St. Paul. In 1631, he collected several thousand pounds to repair Holborn church, then greatly decayed, which the parliament seized, and employed in the war against king Charles I. with that which was set apart for the repair of St. Paul's. He was of the committee to rectify the Liturgy, in hopes to dispel the storm falling upon the church, but this design was quashed by the bill for taking away Episcopacy. He even once put a stop to the bill; Holborn was taken from him; and at Cheam he was disturbed and imprisoned for using the Liturgy, yet he held it till the Restoration, when he was offered the bishoprick of Gloucester, but refused it. In 1661, he was raised to the united sees of Lichfield and Coventry. Upon the cathedral at Lichfield he spent in eight years 19,000l. of his own, and money procured for that end, with 1000l. given by the chapter on Christmas eve. In 1669 he consecrated that cathedral, and kept a feast for three days together, to shew his joy for accomplishing so noble a work, which is indeed the admiration of the present times. He also laid out 1000l. upon his prebendal house, the old palace being destroyed in the troubles. In his diocese he was exact, a constant

stant preacher, and used his utmost endeavours to oblige his clergy to do the same, and adorn their doctrine with religious lives. He was a great benefactor to Trinity college, and the public library, at Cambridge; also to St. John's college, and Clare hall. The good bishop, of whom I could not say less, died October 28, 1670, and was buried under a sumptuous monument, set up by his son in his own cathedral. In 1671, were published under his name two books called "Christian Consolations;" and a "Century of Religious Discourses," folio, London, in 1675; with his "Life," written by Thomas Plume.

Henry Hacket, of Grymley, Worcestershire, was a sufferer in the Civil War, and obliged to pay 300l. composition for his estate to the usurpers. Whether he was related to the bishop I have not learned.

The prelate had issue a son, Sir Andrew Hacket, knight, one of the masters in chancery, who married one of three daughters and coheirs of — Lisle, of Moxhull in the county of Warwick, esq. and by her had issue three sons, Lisle, Andrew, and John, a clergyman, vice principal of Trinity college, Cambridge, under the famous and learned Dr. Bentley, and when ordered to read the order of the bishop (visitor of that college) to expel him, refused to be concerned. Lisle Hacket, of Moxhull, esq. had an only daughter, Mary, married to Sir Justinian Isham, of Lambton in Northamptonshire, baronet, member of parliament for that county, who died March 5, 1737, without issue by his lady.

Andrew, brother to Lisle, was father to Andrew, late of Moxhull, now of Sutton Colefield, esq. by Mary his wife, now living, daughter of Richard Scott, of Little Aston in Shenstone, esq. and hath issue Andrew, John, and Richard, clerk, who hath a benefice in the county of Lincoln, and is yet unmarried.

Andrew

Andrew married —, daughter to John lord Leigh, of Stonely Abbey, Warwickshire, and sister to Sir Edward the present baron and baronet; she died in London of the small-pox in February, 1769, without issue. Andrew resides at the family seat at Moxhull, which his father gave up on his marriage about the year 1767. This Andrew Hacket, junior, was high-sheriff for the county of Warwick.

John, second son of Andrew Hacket, esq. of Sutton Colefield, became in 1766 heir to his uncle, John Addyes, of Moore-hall, Warwickshire, esq. and then took the name of Addyes. This John Addyes Hacket, of Moore-hall, was married to Jane, daughter to — Scott, of Barr in the parish of Aldrich, esq. (by his wife daughter of Whitby, of Heywood, esq. now of Langley-hall, near Sutton, lately of Colwich, in the county of Stafford) August 30, 1769.

After the Scotts' family left Aston-hall it was in the tenure of Richard Banner, of London; after of Perry Barre, esq. In 1741 he was named a commissioner in the act of parliament, by the appellation of Richard Banner, of Aston-hall, esq. He was a person of good breeding, and great humanity, especially towards the poor, shewn, besides his continual benevolence in giving a whole beef and three guineas at Christmas, yearly, to the distressed of his own parish. His study was fitted with a collection of the most choice and valuable books, which were when he left this place, sold by — Purcel, of Worcester, his nephew, for several hundred pounds to — Anson, of Shuckborough, in the county of Stafford, esq. His wife was, sister to Griffith Davis, of Birmingham, an eminent physician, distinguished too for her charities, one instance of which we remark, which was the keeping a shop of physical drugs, in the management of which she was directed by Sa-

muel Swynfen, of Swynfen, esq. M. D. afterwards of Birmingham, well known, and yet remembered for his skill in his profession, and his care in his prescriptions; this good lady died of a cancer in her breast. Her niece, Mary Griffith, only daughter and heir to Griffith Davis *, M. D. with a fortune of 3000l. was, upon May 26, 1736, married in Shenstone church to Sir Thomas Cave, of Stanford, in Northamptonshire, baronet; her residence being then at Aston, as ward to her uncle Richard Banner, esq.

This mansion was next in the holding of John Petit, esq. as I am informed, from 1743 to 1762, or thereabouts, a gentleman of great abilities and knowledge of the polite world; to these were added what was preferable, compassion to the lowest of his fellow-creatures, and great goodness. With him resided a brother, who had served in the army as a captain, equally worthy. In one word, the charity of the whole family seemed (their station considered) to have no limits. The gentlemen administered physic, and prescribed to their neighbours of a middle rank, whose circumstances did not admit of much expence, as well as to the poor, not only of this parish, but of Aldrich, Barr, Sutton, Hill, and the hamlets adjoining, and with this they frequently administered money, and the necessaries of life. The lady of John Petit, esq. with her sister and daughter, gave freely to such poor families, and to such objects of humanity, as came within their sphere, which also they searched out themselves, ordered to have recommended to their notice, employing themselves at other times, like Dorcas among the primitive Christians, with making linen for the poor, especially women with child, or in the bed of sickness. In the year 1762, after the death of Mr. Petit, his widow left Aston, and settled in Bloomsbury-square, London, to the very sensible loss and regret of all ranks in this

* Lord of the manor of Thedingworth in Leicestershire; where a monument is placed to his memory. He died in 1722, aged 54.

neighbourhood. The captain (Peter) died in 1768, and Mrs. Petit in 1767.

John Petit, esq. married Mary, daughter of Thomas Hayes, of Wolverhampton, esq. and had issue John Lewis, M. D. of London, where he practised with great success; and Mary Anne. John Lewis was educated at Queen's college, Cambridge, and took the degree of A. B. 1756, A. M. 1759, M. D. 1766, and in November, 1769, married to —— daughter of —— Serces, esq. of Hounslow. He died May 27, 1780, leaving three sons, John, Peter, and Lewis, all now living.

William Penn, gentleman, held this mansion upon the departure of John Petytt, esq. three or four years, at present of Aldrich; his wife was Anne, daughter of —— Symcox, of Aldrich, gent. but hath no issue.

In the year 1765, Humphry Minchin, esq. took a lease of the house, with the manor of Little Aston and all its rights, for 99 years; and, about the feast of St. Michael in the same year, came from the neighbourhood of Reading, in Berkshire, to reside at this seat. Finding the place capable of improvement, he soon made great alterations, cutting down the fences and hedges, which gave the house the appearance of a monastery, and laid out the many inclosures about it in the form of a park, for which the land was by its situation well adapted. The water in the center, and which passes through the park, is greatly increased and enlarged, so as to add to the beauty of the whole; the trees, which were planted irregularly, and intercepted the view from the house, are fallen, instead of which clumps are set, which vary the scene, and conceal a barren heath on Cannock wood, or, in a few years, will effectually do so. The gardens adjoining to it were for the most part rooted up, and new ones made about a quarter of a mile South from the mansion, which now appears to the best advantage, exceeding the opinion of those

those who remember it shut up with ever-greens and lofty firs, being indeed a handsome modern-built house. Shenstone church to the North of it, and Aldrich to the West, are pleasing objects of view from it. The present possessor, for whom I express a particular respect, having lived a considerable time in his family, is a person of merit, of the greatest politeness and good-breeding, having been conversant in the manners of several courts in Europe, viz. England, France, Germany, and Italy; in each of these countries he hath not only travelled, but long resided, and received, in part, his education. This gentleman is the only person who makes use of the *paillasses* (beds of straw) under feather beds, as I am told is frequent in France, and which are of ancient use at Edburton manor in Bucks; the other beds in the family are mattresses. An elegant modern writer * hath a long note on such customs in his Remarks upon Virgil, which will justify my mentioning this circumstance.

The family of Minchin took their name from Minchin-Hampton, a market-town in the county of Gloucester, of which place they originally were. This is also called the monastery of Hampton, because it belonged to the house of nuns at Caen in Normandy, whence, about the time of queen Elizabeth or king James I. John, William, and a third brother Minchin, went into the kingdom of Ireland, and, there purchasing lands, settled their several families. Paul, of Bogh, in the county of Carlow, was grandson, or great grandson, of one of the aforementioned persons; and, marrying Henrietta, daughter of Bunbury, esq. of in Ireland, originally of England, and of the same family with Sir Charles Bunbury, baronet, had issue Humphry, and two daughters, now living, Rebecca, wife of Daniel Toler, esq. of Ireland; and Elizabeth, unmarried: Paul, of Bogh, esq. died in 1764.

* Spence.

Humphry Minchin, of Aston hall, esq. married Clarinda, one of the two daughters and coheirs of George Cuppidge, esq. a noted banker of the city of Dublin: Anne, the other daughter and coheir, yet living, is the relict of John Dawson, esq. son of Arthur, a baron of the exchequer in Ireland, who died in 1767, without issue. By Mr. Minchin his lady hath issue four sons and five daughters; Paul, Spencer, George, and Henry; Henrietta, Anne, Clarinda, Louisa, and Georgiana. Maria, aged thirteen, died at Aston, and was buried in Shenstone church, March 31, 1767.

Humphry Minchin, esq. was of Ganakil-castle, in the county of Tipperary in Ireland, serjeant at arms in Ireland, in the commission of the peace, and a colonel of militia there, as his father was.

We find, that Richardson of PeirceButler, of Barrow Mount, in Ireland, captain of horse, slain in 1650 in that kingdom, eldest son of Edward * lord viscount Galmoy, in the reign of Charles I. by Anne his wife, daughter to Edward Woolley, D.D. bishop of Clonfert, had issue a daughter, wife of ——— Minchin, of Tipperary.

In 1721, Theobald Burke, of Kill and Moneycrower, in Ireland, of the same family as Sir John Bourke (de Burgo), viscount Mayo, and baronet, married Catharine, daughter of ——— Minchin, esq. by whom he had issue one son, Arthur Annesley, who died at Theobald; the father died in 1751, leaving four daughters.

John Minchin, of Annagh in Tipperary, married Penelope, daughter of Joseph Cuff, esq. of Castle-inch in Kilkenny, and sister to John, created baron Desart †, in Kilkenny, by whom

* See Lodge's Peerage of Ireland.

† By king George II. in 1733.

he had issue four sons and three daughters; Charles, Humphry, John, and Boyle; Penelope married to Thomas Minchin, esq. her cousin-german; Jane to Henry Stotesbury, of Freshford, esq. who died in 1741; and Mary to Michael Lewis, of Kilkenny, esq.

Near Aston hall stands a mansion, known for its having been in possession of a good family, named Sedgwick, and before them of the Offleys, as say some records; yet it seems to me, that the Sedgwicks were prior to the Offleys in this place, confirmed by some deeds, which take no notice of the latter till the reign of king Charles II. nor indeed does the register. I am ready, therefore, to conclude, that they lived here at the same time, and in separate habitations.

In 1558 (5 Mary), James Sedgwick, by his wife, had children living, William; Mary, who died in 1606; and Elizabeth. William, of Little Aston, died in March, 1607-8, having issue by Mary his wife (who, surviving, died in 1609-10.) as I think, Wenlock, Roger, and Rowland. Wenlock had issue William, born in 1656-7, died in 1660. Dorothy, his mother, then a widow, died in 1673; Wenlock died in 1658. Michael, by Anne his wife, had issue Henry, born in 1672. James Sedgwick married Mary Bowman in 1674, and had children, Raphael and Elizabeth. Michael, by Sarah his wife, had issue Michael, born in 1682, died in 1686; and Sarah in 1702.

I find a Wenlock Sedgwick, brother to James; and Henry, who lived at Pelfal, and married twice, but died without issue. Wenlock settled at Sutton Colefield, or Wild Green, near it, and left one son*, if no more. James as abovesaid lived at Aston, but gave the estate up to his son Raphael upon his marriage with

* Henry, living in 1677-8.

——, daughter of —— Gough, of Old Fallings, near Wolverhampton, esq. and resided at Sutton; as did also afterwards Henry his brother, to whom Raphael, of Little Aston, gent. became heir. Raphael resided at Aston in 1677, for that year he is named as a witness to the settlement of a dower by James Adams, of Fotherley, upon Mary (Sedgwick) his wife, and died in 1689-90.

James Sedgwick, of Aston, gent. by Mary his wife (who died in 1712) had issue Wenlock (who died in 1715, at Lichfield), Henry, and James of Wolverhampton, who deceased in 1735; Margaret, married in 1713 to Joshua Symonds, of Birmingham. Henry, by Elizabeth * his wife, had issue John, born at Aston in 1734; Henry, born in 1738; Anne, Mary, Elizabeth, and Sarah.

We add, that in the 19th year of the reign of James I. John Sedgwick had lands in Stonall; that Henry, in 1684, witnessed a deed of John Turner, gent. of Sutton, and Joan his wife, passing lands in Stonall to John Stoftes of Oldfallings, but are not certain that these were of the Aston line.

In 1667, the widow Sedgwick, and Henry her son, paid to the assessment for aiding the king. In 1692, James paid 5s. poll-tax for himself, his wife, and three children, all of Little Aston.

In 1675, Michael Sedgwick married Elizabeth Sylvester, who died with her infant son Michael, in child-bed, in 1677.

Thomas (whom I suppose to be son and heir to James of Wolverhampton) was of Wolverhampton, and Overpenne, doctor of physick: he married Anne, daughter and heiress of Thomas Bardney, esq. of Netherpenne, and had issue by her a son Thomas, who died aged 7. As she had no other child by him, the estates at Penne

* Elizabeth Hilton, of Middleton.

and elfewhere, which he enjoyed ſome years after her deceaſe, paſſed to Thomas Bradney, eſq. of Penne, ſon of Thomas Bradney, of Wolverhampton, and in the commiſſion of the peace, with the tythes of Upper and Lower Penne; in failure of male iſſue, lands of 500l. *per annum*, and improvable, deſcend to William Hilliar, of Wolverhampton, and James Billingsley, ſiſter's ſons of Thomas Sedgwick, M. D. and his heirs, by virtue of a ſettlement made by Anne Bradney aforeſaid, wife of this Thomas. Thomas Bradney hath iſſue yet three daughters.

William Hilliar conveyed the Aſton eſtate to John Butler, of Wedneſbury in Staffordſhire, gentleman.

Butler (an appellation derived from *Pincerna*, the name of an office) had iſſue James, of Alreways, near the city of Lichfield, who was father * to John and Richard, who was in the iron trade with — Turton, of the Oak in Weſt Bromwich, and afterwards lived at Hall-end in that Pariſh. He married Mary, daughter to Blackham, gentleman, and ſiſter to Sir Richard, created a baronet in 1696, 7 William III. and to Charles Blackham, late of Birmingham, eſq. John, the eldeſt, ſettled in Maryland, and had no iſſue. Richard and Mary Blackham had iſſue Charles, or Richard, who went to his uncle in Maryland, and had iſſue there; John, and Thomas, of Wolverhampton, deceaſed, and left iſſue; alſo two daughters; Elizabeth, wife of — Marſh, of Weſt Bromwich, by whom, at her death, ſhe left two ſons and two daughters, yet living; and Sarah married to Richard Mann, of London, living in 1769.

John (died in 1768) married Anne, ſole daughter and heireſs of — Barnet (who died in 1755), and had iſſue by her Richard,

* By daughter of Gueſt, of Worceſterſhire, clerk.

who

who died young; John; Elizabeth married (November 30, 1754) to Harry Sanders, clerk; they had issue one son, John Butler, aged 14 (1769); she died October 20, 1760; Anne, wife of George Coxe Stubbs, of Huntingdon, near Cannock, gent. who died in 1768, leaving issue Eleanor, who died an infant, and Martha, wife of Jonathan Kenrick, of Wednesbury, gent. by whom she hath children.

John Butler, son of John, and Anne Barnet, married in 1757 Mary, relict of ——— Chandler, of London, gent. and daughter of ——— Kenrick, by whom he had issue John, who died young, of the small pox; and a daughter, who died an infant.

The first of the Offleys were Thomas, of Gorfeot, in the parish of Walsall, and Richard, of Brynton, in Staffordshire, who, in 1661, and 1662, purchased lands in Nether Stonall and Little Aston; also in 1663, at Lynden, at which time Thomas lived in the parish. By Joan his wife he had issue Thomas, John*, of London; also Joan, wife of John Turner, gent. of Sutton Colefield.

In 1684, Thomas Offley's daughter, Joan Turner, owned lands in Stonall, given her by her father, for which Richard, of Brynton, was trustee. In 1686, Joan, her mother, was a widow. In 1687, Richard Offley had lands in Stonall, and the Heathfield in that berwick, with Offley Flatt; that year he possessed in that hamlet lands which were originally part of the Moss-house manor, for which he paid 3s. 8d. rent, as chief, to the king's receiver.

The Bradshaws, of Aston, had lands here; but, as I find no mention of them in the Register, suppose they did not reside here; the estates of the Offleys and Bradshaws being in the

* Born at Shenstone in 1665.

heirs of Thomas Sedgwick, M. D. were conveyed to the late John Butler, gent. with the rectorial tythes of this hamlet of Little Aston, and from him descended to John Butler, his only surviving son.

A meadow, named to this day Bradshaw's meadow, was afterwards the property of Robert Sylvester, of Wood-end, gent. and passed with his estates.

At a little distance from Butler's farm stands a neat mansion, formerly belonging to a gentleman's family named *Darby*.

In 1667, John Darby resided here, and paid to the assessment for the royal aid; and the same year to the additional assessment with — Baglies.

In 1692, we find here John Darby (perhaps his son), who died in 1704, and Elizabeth, his widow, in 1707, when the estate came to — Collyns, gent. of Aston. William Collyns was of Aston in 1583, and had issue Robert; Elizabeth, wife of Richard Astley, gent. 1599; Joan, who died in 1600; Alice, married to Thomas Bromley, gent. in 1601. Robert, by Anne his wife, had issue Sampson, Robert, and John. Elizabeth, wife of Sampson, died in 1658, leaving a son Sampson, who married (1670) Susannah, daughter of — Cooke, of Aston, by whom he had issue Joseph, and John*. John, third son of Robert, died in 1684; the said Robert had also two daughters, Anne; and Margery, wife of Richard Maddox, of Armitage, gent. Robert, second son of Robert, in 1667, paid to the royal aid, and died in 1671, leaving issue Robert and Anne. — Collins, of Aston, gent. died in 1716; by Anne, daughter of — Walker, gent. (by his wife —, daughter of John Dolphyn, esq. of Shenstone Moss,) he had issue William, born

* Also Anne, wife of Wakeman, of London; in 1665, a widow.

in 1714; John, in 1715; also Anne, who died in 1713; and Ellen, married to —— Tyrer, of Cannock, by whom she left one daughter. William married twice; first, to ——, by whom he had William (died 1745-6), and Honour, a daughter, wife of —— Giles; secondly, he married Mary, daughter of Roger Smith, esq. of Frolefworth, in Leicestershire, and sister to Edward Smith*, esq. LL. D. of Edmondthorpe, in that county; by whom he had issue, now living, two sons, John, and William; also Catharine.

William Collins, gent. died in March, 1769, and his widow hath removed to Tettenhall, near Wolverhampton.

A family of note lived here, named *Walker*.

Richard Walker, gent. paid 5s. poll-tax in 1692; and died in 1702-3. By Anne his wife he had issue a son William.

Charles, second son of Charles Floyer, deceased, brother to Ralph of Hintz, esq. was † tenant at the mansion late William Collins's, gent. now the estate of the lord of the manor, by purchase from the said William Collins in 1766, with his other lands in Little Aston in possession of the late Thomas Hammond, deceased, and William Mills.

About a century since, the family of *Cooke* had a mansion in this village, with lands adjoining (partly now in John Butler, partly in late William Collins, now William Tenant's, esq.), called the Hennis Haffans, Oakhurst, and Oxhouse; and a tan-house, with field land. In 1667, the widow of John Cooke, gent. and John Cooke, paid to the royal aid; in 1692, the widow Cooke paid to the poll-tax. —— Cooke, of Aston, had issue John, who, in 1659, married Margery, daughter of Matthew Jelliffe,

* Member of Parliament for Leicestershire; he died in 1762.

† At Michaelmas, 1769.

of Hintz, gent. and had issue John, Rowland (who died in 1610), Elizabeth, Margery (died in 1667-8), and Anne. Farther we cannot trace this branch with certainty. Thomas, son of Anne Cooke, widow, died in 1667. Several of the name had lands in Shenstone village, the Ashcrofts, and other hamlets in the parish, and might be of the same lineage, as I am assured they were from one general ancestor in Shenstone; we find them the second named (1759) in the register, and to this day enjoying good estates.

John Cooke, gent. possessed the large old mansion, half timbered, in the mode of building in his time, whence I conclude, he erected this near Aston Green, or at least the purchaser from the Cookes, Mr. Goldsmith. Of this name we find one very busy parliamentarian, much employed by the committee at Stafford during the troubles in 1644-5; and suppose he fished so artfully in these disturbed waters as to acquire a sum sufficient for himself and son to purchase this estate, with others in the neighbourhood. John Goldsmith, gent. left issue two daughters; Catharine married (1721) to William Dudley, of Harborn, whose grandson enjoys the Aston lands; and —, wife of Thomas Coxé, of Colehill in Warwickshire, attorney at law.

Upon Aston Green stands a good old house, formerly the property of William Nabbes, esq. afterwards of Thomas Foley, esq. by purchase; since of the Coopers; and, by inheritance, of Thomas Cooper Smallwood, late of Birmingham.

William Nabbs, of Stafford, esq. in the reign of James I. purchased of the Trenthams, lords of Rochester in Staffordshire, 500l. *per annum*, lands, if not that feigniory or manor of Rochester, with the tenements that were in lease; but from whom he purchased the Aston estate I know not.

The *Coopers*, for some generations, have been persons of property, and resident either at Aldrich, where yet remains a neat mansion of theirs, near the church, at Aston Parva, or the Birchleys in Lyndon. — Cooper had Antony, of Shenstone, in queen Elizabeth's reign, father of William, Thomas, John, Jane (1598), and Ellen. Thomas died in 1667; William and John had children. John Cooper, of Worcester, gent. sold (1665) lands in this parish, called Dukes-field, to Ann Wakeman, of London, widow, daughter of Sampson Collins, of Aston.

— Cooper, of Aldrich, or Aston, had issue William Cooper, clerk, whose children were, 1. Thomas, who died young, and unmarried; 2. John; 3. William, a clerk, who had a benefice in the Moorlands, left one daughter; she died without issue; 4. Richard, who died young; and three daughters; Mary, wife of Henne, of Birmingham; Elizabeth; and Anne, wife of John Wigan, of Aldrich, she died without issue; Elizabeth was married to Smallwood, of Birmingham, by whom she had a son, father of Thomas Cowper Smallwood. John Cowper married Mary, daughter of Leigh, attorney at law, at Aldrich, father of John Leigh, vicar of Shenstone and Whittington; the last was given him by this John Cowper, his brother-in-law, after which he sold the advowson to Levett, esq. of Lichfield, whose son, the reverend Richard Levett, enjoys it. I here add to what is already said of John Leigh, clerk, and his family, that by Sarah, his wife, of Cleybrook in Leicestershire, he left a daughter Catharine, born in 1743, who died unmarried in 1769, at Packland Hall, in the county of Warwick, and was entombed in Shenstone church, April 15. Sarah, widow of the reverend John Leigh, died in 1745. Thomas, brother of this John Leigh,

Leigh, marrying the daughter and heir of Fetherstone *, or Fetherstonagh, took the name and arms of that family, and had issue one daughter, heir to her mother; she died unmarried at Packwood, in 1769. By his second wife, daughter of Thomas Lane, of Bentley Hall, near Wednesbury (descended of an ancient stock at Hyde and Bentley,* in Staffordshire, distinguished for their loyalty to king Charles I. and king Charles II. and for being notable agents in preserving the latter prince after the battle of Worcester), he had issue one daughter, who died at Packwood in 1768, leaving by Dilke, of Maxtock Castle and Packwood, several children.

John Cowper, gent. of Little Aston, and Mary Leigh, having no issue, Thomas Cowper, of Aldrich, was his heir, and, as I think, his nephew (son of Thomas), who resided at Newark upon Trent, Nottinghamshire, where he married in 1756, and died in 1768, without issue; upon whose decease, Thomas Cowper Smallwood afore said became heir to his estates in Aldrich, with the old family mansion there; also to that in Little Aston, with the Birchleys, Owls Hall, in Lyndon, and other lands. This gentleman, late of Birmingham, now of Aldrich, is married, but hath no issue.

I find mention of Thomas Cowper, clerk, who, by Mary his wife, had issue Richard, born in 1700; and another Richard, born in 1702, in this parish; also of Mr. Thomas Cowper, living here in 1706, most likely of the lineage of those at Aston. Thomas, who died in 1667, was the person who resided at Owls Hall in Lynn, and left ten shillings yearly to poor widows, as we have already observed.

* Thomas Leigh, of Aldrich, gent. married Dorothy Fetherstone, of Packwood, at Shenstone, 1720.

Scott Cradock, gent. (nephew to Richard Scott, esq.) lived at Aston in 1735, and carried on the iron-works at the forge, half a mile below the village. He married Elizabeth Griffyths, and died in 1740, leaving issue three daughters, Mary, Anne, and Elizabeth.

This forge, now in the tenure of John Wood, of Wednesbury, gent. is the property of Andrew Hacket, esq. as are the water mills for grinding corn in the holding of William Mills, and the wood or large coppices near Radley Moors; with a farm of eighty acres of land, lying near the forge, with an extensive right of common, late in the possession of Thomas Hammond, deceased, after of Thomas Legar, now of Thomas Ward, of Aston, and Jordan, of Hill. These, with other estates, came to Andrew Hacket, esq. in marriage with Mary Scott. Lands, called the Liffes, formerly Prophet's, Row Meadows, and Moors, formerly Jordan's (who yet have a little farm here), were in the late William Collins, from whom they went to William Tenant, esq.

John Birch, in 1667, paid, with his mother, a widow, to the assessment for the royal aid; he, and Elizabeth his wife, sold sixteen acres in the adjoining moor, to William Pretty, of Fasely, gent. on a lease of 500 years, who passed them to John Brown of Thornes; he to James Adams, of Fotherley, confirmed by Rowland Fryth, lord of the manor; witnessed by John Brown, Joseph Surten, and George Bulkeley.

Aston, which is in circle not less than four miles, is bounded South by the Chace, or Colefield, to the Bourn; next by the parish of Aldrich, extending itself towards Mill Green, and the great road between London and Chester; North, by the Boffes, and onward by Radley Moor, and Radley Moor End; Eastwardly by Hill, or Little Sutton, to the Chace.

The

The whole of Aston, generally speaking, is very bad land, and full of morasses. The famous Ickenild road enters this parish at Aston, of which I mean to speak particularly hereafter.

The second great division of Shenstone parish is named Stonall side of the Bourn; in it are reckoned Over-stonall, Nether-stonall, Lynn or Lyndon, Thornes, Chesterfield, Wall, Hill Town, or Swynfen.

STONHALL hath different derivations; from the stony well, for such there was in this berwick; from the stony hill on which the town stands, or from Stone Hall, it being named in a deed dated 1140 *Stonebala*.

That part of Stonall superior which lies nearest the church is full two miles from it, thence extending itself two miles to Shire Oak Tree upon Walfall wood. The village, or town, is situate on a fine rising ground on every side affording an extensive and delightful prospect from its summits; the Castles and Shire Oaks hill into the counties of Salop, Worcester, Leicester, Derby, Warwick, if not Cheshire; itself standing nearly in the center of Staffordshire. It lies in such a manner, as in a good measure to be separated from the rest of this parish by large roads, being divided from Lynn and Nether-stonall by the highway from Birmingham and Little Aston, through Thornes, from a part of Lynn by the Whitacres and Sandalls, running in cornerwise to Castle Hill, and by the Lichfield road to Walfall, by the parish of Aldrich, a considerable length, with Druids
heath

heath to Thornes; in the whole, above five miles compass. Over-stonall, soon after the Conquest, was the property of the D'Oyleys, of which noble house lord Robert Fitz Nigel D'Oyley, in 1129, gave it to the abbey of Osney in the county of Oxford, by the name of one of the two Stonhala's, with their chapels; but, as other places are passed in the same charter, I am not perfectly satisfied that this town or hamlet had any chapel, that of Stonall inferior, lying so near as half a mile, and therefore such a place of public worship seems unnecessary in Over-stonall.

..... D'Oyley *, high constable of England, who gave the manor of the Moss, in Shenstone, to the abbot of Osney, had a castle in this place, called Old Fort.

There are in many places of this kingdom fortifications made of earth, cast up into high entrenchments, with large ditches round them, in such manner and form as the high places would admit of, that may be presumed to be of the old Britons. That they fortified after this manner, as well as with stones, we have the evidence of Tacitus, who says, that the Iceni (a people seated in this part of the country, as well as on the other side of the kingdom) chose for their place of fighting a situation fenced with a bank † of earth, having a narrow entrance to keep off the horse. Of the same kind was this at Over-stonall, where was an old fortification upon the eminence, well known by the name of the Castles, or Old Fort (*castrum vetus*, in British *Castlebean*), encompassed with a trench ‡ 16 paces broad. There seem to have

* See papers of Richard Wilkes, M. D.

† Septum agresti aggere, aditu angusto ne pervius equiti foret locus. Tacitus, Annal. xii. 31.

‡ One hundred and sixty paces broad between the two entrances at least.

been

been two ways of entrance, on the South-east and North-west sides. Dr. Plott is of opinion also, that this was a British rampart, though the reason of the name Oldfort may be the most satisfactory; it might have the appellation from its owner, *Oylesfort*, or by corruption *Old fort*. To the castles, and called from them, belongs a considerable quantity of land, sold by Thomas Dickenson to the late lord of the manor, now a farm in the tenure of James Penn, under William Tenant, esq.

At the extreme part of the parish, one mile from Upperstonall, is *Catt's* hill (fortè *Canute's* hill), upon Cannock-wood, universally allowed to be a low, or tumulus, on the great Roman road called Watling-street.

It was the constant custom of the Romans to make their funeral monuments, or tumuli, near the highways, whence 'fiste viator,' and 'abi viator' (stop, or go on, traveller), were proper terms in their inscriptions, but very absurdly taken from them, and put upon monuments in the inside of a church, of which we have too many instances. The Pagan Britons, Saxons, and Danes, made their tombs very like the Roman tumuli, from which word came the French *tombeaux*. Numbers of these sepulchral hills, by the country people called *burroughs* (from Beorg, a Saxon word for *collis*, a hill), are to be met with in this island, and of different magnitudes, according to the quality of the officer entombed. The lowest was not buried without each soldier under his command laying a turf on the grave; and the S. T. T. L. on some monumental inscriptions (*sit tibi terra levis*), i. e. 'May this earth be light,' plainly alludes to this custom. It cannot then be wondered at, that these tumuli of ours are often of extraordinary bulk; when, upon a general there went the whole power of the Roman army in Britain, as well as many of the natives, to raise them. They seem to have been raised from

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a flat

a flat superficies, and the deficiencies near them generally shew where the earth was taken. Instances of it appear at Holgate, near the city of York, where three such hills were raised for Severus the emperor; one to his memory, the other two in honour to his sons. No sort of monument can subsist longer, for nothing but an earthquake can destroy them. Seneca mentions them as great * banks of earth raised to a great height.

It seems too, that the Romans burnt the bodies of the slain to prevent the abusing of the dead bodies; as was the case of Quintilius Varius, their general, slain in Germany by enemies that thirsted after an inhumane and hostile revenge; otherwise it was not customary among them. Several lows or barrows have been dug up, and burnt bones and charcoal have been found.

If any consul, or eminent warrior, died in their expedition, his body was burnt upon the level, near the *Via Strata*, or *Militaris*, great roads. Having by this method deprived the exasperated enemy of their hope of ever being able to abuse the dead body, they likewise prevented their scattering the bones in haste, when the whole army heaped upon them pure grassy turfs cut from the surface of the ground, which is the reason why it doth not appear by any hollowness whence the earth was taken that raised the tumulus.

On the borders of Shenstone on the Cannoc, adjoining to the Watling-street, is a rise or swell of land, with three trenches; the circuit of this rise is nearly eighty three yards; it hath the appearance of a barrow, and, having a fir tree growing on the center, serves as a guide or landmark to strangers over a wild and desolate heath. The nearest trench is five or six yards deep,

* Terrenos tumulos in magnam eductos celsitudinem.

reckoning its gradual descent from the plain ground; the second is nearly the same; the third is full six yards; though greatly below the Castles and Shire Oak hills, it affords no despicable view of the adjoining country.

Dr. Plott gives an account of this place in the following terms: "Of what use was the treble entrenchment on the South side of the Watling-street, near Frog-Homer, called *Knaves-castle*, which is not above forty, or at most fifty yards diameter, in the middle whereof there is a round hill, now excavated, I cannot imagine, being so very small. The tradition is, that this heath being formerly all wood, and much infested with robberies, here was a watch set to guard strangers over it, for which the passengers allowed some small gratuity. Others say, that the robbers themselves harboured in this place, and that, therefore, it was called *Knaves-castle* *." Though there remain no signs of a fort, it seems very likely to have been one to guard strangers passing over so wild and dreary a country as Cannoc wood is at present; much more was it such formerly, when full of woods and thickets. I am inclined to give the name of it another solution, that it was *Canute's* or *Knute's* castle, now corruptly *Knaves-castle*, who, after the troubles between king Edmund Ironside and himself were appeased, might place such guards or stations to keep in quiet the lawless in this part of Mercia, which was utterly uncultivated, or such as, being adherents to his rival, would not submit to his government. This, though a conjecture, seems not improbable, Cannoc, or Canute's wood, being so called from him.

Half a mile from Knute's, or Knaves-castle, are Occamfley pits, of which there are several so named, and, though not in

* Dr. Plott. Staffordshire, c. X. § 84, p. 448.

the parish, may deserve notice. They lie upon or near the Watling-street, and not far from Frog Homer; one of them hath been remarked by curious persons, as never holding water for the least moment of time after the greatest shower, or the most durable rain, though all the neighbouring pits are filled to the brim; this is in circuit ninety yards. Dr: Plott * says, he saw an experiment of this, for, after above a month's constant rain, he found one pit as dry and as hard as the highest gravelly ground in the street-way; the weight of himself and horse not making any visible impression on the bottom of it, though all the rest about it then stood brimful of water, and to all appearance lying higher, that is, not so dead as this, and nothing interposing but a spongy heathy soil, which he confessed was utterly unaccountable, unless it were sufficient to suspect, that the bottom of the dry pit, though hard and found, may be a loose open gravel through which water may presently descend; and the bottoms and sides of the rest may be either a stiff clay, or some other earth that holds the water. An attempt was lately made to get gravel in this pit, but it was found to be utterly unfit for the purpose, consisting of a sort of red sand, and a kind of pox stone.

Shire Oaks is the name of a farm upon the summit of a hill so called, lying to the great roads from Lichfield and Shenstone (which here unite), towards Walfall. A large oak in the valley, a quarter of a mile from this farm, separates Shenstone from Walfall, or Walfall wood, and is named Shire Oak, from the word *Scyre*, to divide, and is four miles from Shenstone church. Enclosure was made by John Smyth, lord of the manor, with the consent of the freeholders. Hence, as we noted, is a fine prospect, but the place itself is remarkable for nothing more

* Chap. III. § 10.

than a land-mark. In former times, when full of woods, it was a den of thieves. It lies on the road between London and Chester; one hundred and sixty acres of it are in the holding of James Penn, under William Tenant, esq.

Upon the decline of the eminence upon which stood the fort or castle, stands a neat modern-built house, erected by — Twyford; after the estate of John Fenton, since of Richard Whitehouse, and Samuel his son; now of Peter Tomkis, in right of his wife, widow of Samuel Whitehouse.

Somewhat lower stands the old inn, called and known through the kingdom by the name of the Welch harp. This large house had its name from the raising of a booth, in order to supply travellers upon the great road between London and Chester. From this beginning John Smith chiefly raised a good fortune; he left John, William, and a daughter, who married Taylor, of Chesterfield. Upon her son by him she settled part of her estate, and then re-married to Thomas Smyth, of Lichfield, gent. at whose house William Smyth, of London, died, who left the legacy of five pounds yearly for the setting out poor boys apprentices from Over-tonall. To the purchases that John made, William, his nephew, added more, bought of the Readings, a very old family in this parish, and possessed of much land, but now entirely disposed of. William, dying a bachelor, left the greatest part of his acquisitions to John his nephew, who immediately set up for a gentleman, keeping his chariot, and a pack of hounds. These things, with other extravagances, and neglect of business upon one of the most frequented roads in England, shortened his fortune. What is still notable of this family is, that a daughter of this John Smyth became a pauper, and, in 1766, was found starved to death near Wall.

Thee

The Welch harp, with 120*l.* *per ann.* lands, or upwards, passed by purchase to Joseph Parker, of Lichfield, gent. who, having no issue, hath settled this estate upon Joseph Elde, of Shenstone, gent. and his issue by Mary, daughter of Burton, of Derbyshire, gent. descended of the Burtons of Lindley in Leicestershire, in the reign of Henry VIII. of Falde, in Staffordshire, and Higham, in the reign of Henry VI. originally from Sir James de Burton, knight, ranger of Needwood forest, as appears by letters patent in the reign of Richard I. By her he hath Joseph, Thomas, and four daughters. The business of inn-keeping is laid aside, and the land is in the tenure of James Penn.

In opposition to the Welch harp, Rowland Fryth, esq. erected a large inn near, upon the same road, annexing to it a considerable farm. This is a very handsome and commodious house, the property of William Tenant, esq. in the tenure of the aforesaid James Penn, who hath lately made great alterations and improvements in the house and the offices belonging to it; this bears the name of the Welch Harp and Swan.

Near this house stood lately an old mansion half timbered, with a court walled out to the road; and on each side of the court were planted yew-trees, and other ever-greens, in the same taste. This, with lands valued at 40*l.* a year, John Sylvester sold to Joseph Parker, of Lichfield, gent. whose property they are at this present (1770). John Sylvester had issue a son John, who died, aged 25, a bachelor; and a daughter, wife of John Yates, of London; both which children, by their extravagance, helped to dissipate their father's substance, and thereby quite reduced a family that had lived here before the reign of queen Elizabeth. Richard Sylvester is mentioned to reside at Upperstonall in the 13th year of the reign of king James I. Another,
Richard

Richard (1654), fold lands in this hamlet to the Wyatts family ; part of them were called Carters-field.

In the rebellion (king Charles I.) John Sylvester, of this place, was an active parliamentarian. By Anne, his wife, he left John; he died in 1688 ; his wife in 1665. William, his son, was living in the reign of king Charles II. I find also William, of the same place (king Charles I.). William, John, and Robert, of Stonall, paid to the royal aid in 1667. John Sylvester, John his son, with his wife, and Robert, in 1692, paid to the poll-tax ; all of Over-stonall.

At a little distance from the town stands a neat mansion, mostly half-timbered, except an additional part in 1769, well known by the name of Penford-house. Pen is a British word, signifying the top of a hill ; exactly the case here, for the rivulet so named hath its rise in the higher ground, and maketh a wash-way, or ford, near the house, and upon the road to Aldrich by Coppice-hall, over Druids-heath.

This estate was purchased of ——— Reading, by whom I have not learnt ; that family, which I think was Vere's, fold it to John Strickson, esq. of whom the honourable and reverend Richard Hill purchased it ; from Samuel, his nephew, of Shenstone-park, it came to Thomas Hill, esq. of Terne in Shropshire, whose son, Samuel, dying a bachelor, it passed, with other lands, to Noel Hill, esq. John Vere, of Penford-house, died about 1742, reduced in his circumstances, being long supported by Samuel Hill of Shenstone-park, from motives of compassion towards a good family, that had been in possession of it.

The Brandreths had lands in Upper-stonall, part of which, near the fields, called Briar's Flatts, purchased of the Erpes, was in the tenure of John Smyth, named the Gentleman ; this
was.

was Samuel Hill's, of Shenstone, and passed to Thomas, of Terne; Samuel and Noel, his sons.

Between Stonall and the Whitacres are a parcel of lands named in the Sandalls, or Sandhills, from the nature of the soil, in the hands of several persons. William Tenant, lord of the manor, hath, besides other pieces, a wood of good timber, though much of it is fallen: John Taylor, of Walsall, gent. owns a share of them, on which grows some fine young timber, but chiefly underwood, purchased of Thomas Lander, of Aldrich, who bought it of Thomas Cooper, of Aldrich, gent. — Allen, of the Welch Harp, had another dividend, which passed to —, his daughter, wife of Thomas Everett, of Birmingham, late of Aldrich, who sold it to Sylvester, of Hammerwich, on whose decease, in 1768, Webb, of Lichfield, enjoys the same in right of his wife, sister of Webb. Three closes, called Sandhills, were the estate of Thomas Passaw, of London, who, dying in 1768, left them to his father, Richard Passaw, of Upper Stonall, yet living, with three closes, called Hill fields, or Sandhill fields, adjoining: the whole of the Sandhills now enclosed is a mile in compass.

In this hamlet hath long been seated a family of note (who had a considerable estate here, though now sold or wasted), as being a collateral branch of the Haws, of Caldmere, near Walsall, the last of which, an heiress, lately married Parker, esq. of Park-hall in Staffordshire, eldest son of lord chief baron Parker.

In the reign of king Charles II. we meet with George Haw, of Upper-stonall, gent. who had issue, by Catharine his wife, George * William, born in 1678, and Walter, who was settled

* Who paid poll-tax in 1692.

in the iron trade, in London, and acquired a good fortune; he left issue Walter, who died unmarried; and William, of London, who was also engaged in the iron manufactory. George, son of George aforeaid, his uncle, was in part his heir, living then at Stonhall; he had issue George, who spent most of his estate, and died a bachelor (1766); Walter, and others.

William Haw, in 1732, possessed lands in Carters-field, Hill-field, near the Feathers, or Feather-shut. George, who died in 1766, sold part of his estate to William Tenant. esq; and several tenements to ——— Moss, of Rushall; he had lands called Wollongs, a moor near Bulmores, and in the High-fields, but all the family estates here are dissipated.

Haw's arms: Sable, a chevron between two leopards heads erased, Or, armed Gules.

Many branches of the *Readings* were here before queen Elizabeth's reign, in Over-stonall, Nether-stonall, and Lyndon. In 1767, William, two others named Thomas, all of this place, with William Reading, of Lynn, paid to the royal aid. Thomas Reading paid, in 1692, to the poll-tax; one of the name yet lives in Upper-Stonall. Of the same family came Cornelius and John Reading, of Pype-hill (1770), gentlemen. I take it, this name was found in the parish in king Edward the Fourth's time, for I have seen an account, that Richard de Rudding leased lands here in the year 1470. In the 8th year of the reign of James I. Rowland Rudding purchased lands belonging to the Moss; and 13 James I. the Calves-pieces in Over-stonall, with lands in Footherley. Penford, Quebbs, part of the Welch Harp estate, with lands in the two Stonalls, and Lyndon, were in this family, some of which bear their name.

In king Charles the First's time a family named *Bankes* had good property in this village, particularly at Leetsfield; also

Banks' moors *, near Chesterfield; Alexander and John Banks were of Over-stonall, in the reign of king Charles I. John had issue Edmund, born in 1656; John; and Robert; with other children.

A branch of the great family of *Sekerton*, or *Seckington*, had possessions in Stonall, for William de Seckerton, rector of the church of Honton, descended of William, brother to lord Geoffry de Camvil de Clifton, who had Seckington manor, in the county of Warwick, from which place he took his name. In the reign of king Henry III. he passed such lands to Hugh Fitzwilliam, Nichols de Allersshale, and to Thomas his brother, lying in Stonall, in presence of Radulph de la Wall, Thomas de Polefworth, and others; the deed is dated at Allershall, the first day after the feast of St. Hillary, in the 13th year of the reign of king Edward III. after the Conquest, in 1340.

King James I. had lands here, which he passed over, in the 8th year of his reign, to Peter Alport, esq. and to Rowland Fryth, esq.

In the middle of the street at Upper-stonall stood a stone cross; the base of stone in which the pillar was fixed yet remains. What the intention of placing such an one here is not very plain. It might be set up at first when a decree was made by the church, that every parish in places most frequented should set up such a cross. When the parishioners examine their bounds in their processioning, the Gospel is read at this stone, and the usual ceremonies repeated; yet it cannot be as limits, because the parish extends itself from it a mile, or more, every way. A cross was sometimes erected in public places of concourse, to put people in mind of the great benefit God hath

* And the Gorsly moors, now in the possession of Jos. Wadam.

vouchsafed for the redemption of mankind by the passion of his Son, which, no question, to all pious Christians was of very good use; however, upon pretence that they were idolized, they were generally demolished throughout the whole kingdom. I have seen one of these stone pillars in the road between Walsall and West Bromwich. They are of a round polished stone, much like those upon which dials are often placed (as in Shenstone church-yard), but vastly higher. Not being satisfied with these accounts, and knowing no good reason for the setting up such pillars or crosses, I should gladly receive information on this head, or, indeed, in any matters mentioned in this treatise; it being impossible not to err; and many persons, who have it in their power, will communicate nothing towards making this account more useful.

South and South-west of Upper-stonall, is a large common or heath, called *Druid's beath*; part of it is in Shenstone parish, lying to the two Stonalls and Thornes, but the right of common or pasture is in Nether-stonall, that of the other Stonall being towards the Castles and Shire Oak on Cannock. The far greatest part is in Aldrich, and the whole so called is in circuit four miles. Tradition informs us, that on the Aldrich side, upon a bank yet remaining, at a small distance from Coppice hall, stood a temple of the Druids. The best account of them is, that among the Celtes in the earliest times, the Curetes, and afterwards the Druids and Bards, were the interpreters of their laws, judged all cases, whether criminal or civil; and their sentence was reckoned so sacred, that whoever refused to abide by it, was by them excluded from assisting at the sacred rites. After this no man dared to converse with him, so that this punishment was reckoned the most severe of all, even death itself.

They were named Druids from the Greek word *Drus*, an oak, which tree was accounted holy both by the Scythians and Celtes. They performed most of their religious ceremonies near or under large oaks, if not in groves of oaks, and offered no sacrifice without some leaves from that tree. Cæsar tells us they performed the sacrifices and religious rites, were expounders of religion to the people, and instructed youth in all kinds of learning, such as Philosophy, Astronomy, Theology, the immortality and transmigration of the soul from one body to another, which was both an incitement to virtue, and an antidote against the fear of death. These they taught their disciples by word of mouth, esteeming them too sacred to be committed to writing. Other more common subjects, such as their hymns to their deities, the exploits of their princes and generals, their exhortations to the people in time of war, were all couched in elegant verse, and recited, or rather sung, by them on all proper occasions; though even these were also kept from vulgar eyes, and either committed to memory, or, if to writing, the whole was a secret to the laity; the latter, indeed, seems most probable, if what Cæsar intimates be exactly just, that those poetic records were in his time increased to such a size, that it took the young bards near twenty years to learn them by heart*.

We are likewise told, that these poets used to accompany their songs with instrumental music, such as that of the organ, harp, and the like. That they ~~were~~ held in such veneration, that if any army was engaged in battle, upon the appearance of one of these bards or poets, both parties instantly left off fighting; so that their fury gave way to wisdom, and Mars to the Muses. But the true reason was, that they were universally looked upon as prophets, so that it was thought dangerous, as well as injurious,

* De Bell. Gall. vi. 13, 14.

to disobey what they supposed came from the Gods. These prophetic philosophers kept academies, which were resorted to by a great number, not only of their own youth, but those of other countries; so that their philosophy and learning were carried into Greece and other countries. It was then the business and employment of those Druids and Bards to compose hymns and songs, to record therein the actions of those that signalized themselves in stories, which were afterwards sung at their games and solemnities, as well as when they went out to war, which had such an effect upon their soldiers, that they chose rather to die than be taken prisoners. We could enlarge yet more on these bards, but what we have said will suffice to give the reader some good idea of them, and of Druids heath. By degrees they became cruel, and sacrificed human victims; but, we may reasonably conjecture, when such customs were admitted, they must greatly have degenerated from their excellent institution, and their original principles.

Some authors take notice of *Druids meer* on this heath, as prognosticating a dearth by its overflowing in abundance; there is such a water or pool, of which the present William Mills, of Little Aston mill, near it, says, that he hath known it twice to overflow, and observed, that corn afterwards bore a larger price than usual. If this happened in a dry season, it would be more remarkable, but such omen or overflowing may, perhaps, be imputed to the great rains, which are frequently the occasion of a scarcity of corn in England.

Yet we may observe, that at Billington, in this county, is a pool called *Hungry Pit*, which, as people say, foreshews scarcity. Some persons set up sticks in the mud, and forejudge the rise and fall of the corn in the markets by the rise and fall of the water upon those sticks, and so keep or sell their corn accordingly.

cordingly. Here, indeed, the motions of the waters are something strange, little regarding the quality of the weather; for, this pit overflows sometimes in the greatest drought, and often is empty after great falls of rain: and, as to the prediction, whether it be by chance or not is hard to say; but many serious people in that neighbourhood have testified, that the remarks made upon it by some have been so profitable to them, that they have thereby considerably advanced their fortunes.

Since the writing an account of the Castles aforesaid, in this district of Overstonall, another hath occurred to me, which is as follows; "That Cannock, or Cane-wood (*quasi Canuti Sylva*), was a name given to this forest when the Danes, under Canute, had many disputes with king Ethelred, and Edmund Ironside, his son, for the kingdom. Canute made several inroads into Mercia, especially in the years 1013 and 1016. Among other places, he possessed himself of this forest, called still by his name, Cane-wood. Upon the edge of it there still remains a large fortification, encompassed with a double bank and trench, which are in a manner circular, except on the South-east side, which runs pretty straight, so that it seems to hold the figure of a theatre of about 270 paces diameter, which must take in more of the Castle land than what is commonly reckoned in this rampart. For the name sake, and because it is upon the verge of Cannock wood, it may have been his work, and cast up by him; but if we suppose it was cast up by the Mercians hereabouts, to defend themselves against Canute's incursions into their own country, when he made the horrible devastations mentioned by historians, we can see no absurdity in giving it the name of Canute's castle, who was the cause of its making, though it might gain another, either Old fort, or Oyles fort, after the Conquest.

Over-

Over-stonall does not contain above forty houses at present; but several have been taken down, or have fallen, within the memory of many of its inhabitants.

T H O R N E S

Is in this district; but, as it is of some note, and is often spoken of as a village of itself, we shall consider it as such. Some reckon a part of it in Lynne, but I think it should rather be annexed to Nether-stonall, lying to the edge of it every way, and separated by a common road from Lynne. It derives its name from *Tborney*, a Saxon word, denoting a situation among bushes, and uncultivated soil; for the same reason Westminster had the name of Thorney, in the Saxon times.

This was a manor in the parish of Shenstone, and belonged to a family of the name of *Tbornes*, in the reign of Henry VI. who, most likely, purchased lands here from the lords of the manor, and, as was usual in those days, and earlier, took the name of Thornes from the place. Thomas Thornes had issue Thomas, who, in 1470, leased this house to Richard, of the Rudding, which Thomas is said to be of Salop. It did not continue long in the Ruddings, or Readings, for, in 1497, Roger Thornes, of Thornes, again leased it to Robert Jolliffe and his wife for sixty years, the chief or reserved rent being only 6s. 8d. yearly;

yearly; to this lease are witnesses Sir Humphry Stanley, knight; George Stanley, and John Whyrley, esqrs. Ten years after, the said Roger Thornes conveyed it absolutely to the same Robert Jolliffe and his heirs for ever; he had issue a son, whose daughter, Alice Jolliffe, conveyed it (as I think) in marriage to Edward Fryth, esq. Yet the same antiquary, the late learned Dr. Wilkes, who gives us the chief part of this account, says, in another place, that Balmerino, a Scotchman, who had it from king Charles, passed Thornes, a member of the manor of Shenstone, to Rowland Fryth. If Edward Fryth abovesaid had only the mansion of Thornes, and not what is before termed a manor, and Rowland, son or grandson of Edward, purchased of Balmerino the manor rights of Thornes, though subject to Shenstone, it may reconcile the two accounts. We shall distinguish too, by this means, at what time the Fryth family settled here; and likewise shall discern when Shenstone manor itself came to them, namely, in the reign of king Charles I. as will hereafter appear.

Thornes hall was, no question, a mansion of some note in the reign of king Edward IV. erected by Thomas de Thornes, who laid out the lands belonging to it in those days, and, in all probability, Robert Jolliffe added to that structure, or raised a new one in a low situation, under a hill and a covert of wood, without prospect, except from the hinder part of it towards Stonall and Cannoc wood; on the front of it is a road from Birmingham Sutton, and Little Aston, over Druids heath, on the verge of which it stands, by Nether-stonall edge and Lyndon green, through Cranebrook and Hilton to Lichfield. The Fryths erected another, which seems not older than the days of king William III. mostly of brick, and strong. It must have been a large house from what yet remains; the two wings for offices or
stables

stables in the front, and much of the back building being taken away, the present part, now a farm in the tenure of Richard Farnell, is spacious and convenient, with a handsome court in the front placed high with brick, in the style of the house itself. It had a dove-house, rookery, large walled gardens, court-yards, and orchards, but these are in a good measure levelled or rooted up as unnecessary to a tenant with the farm. Near it is a place called the Butts, from its having been a ground set apart for the exercise of archers before fire-arms became so frequent as they now are. Some persons of seeming veracity have affirmed to me, that there grew a thick wood of large timber near Thornes, upon the adjoining eminence, which, about the year 1718, was all blown down in one night by a strong wind. Others supposed, that it was occasioned by an earthquake, and observed, that the roots of the thickest and firmest trees were strangely torn up, and lay out of the ground. Of the Fryths we mean to speak when we treat particularly of the lords of the manor.

Opposite to Thornes, in the same street, stands a mansion, of itself not worth our notice, but as it belongs to a family of good extraction, named *Stanley*, we may not omit it.

This branch of the Stanleys, besides the agreement of their arms, is generally looked upon to be of the same lineage with the earls of Derby, and, it is said, one of the late earls was satisfied of it; but of this we can give no proof. It seems most likely the Stanleys of Lyndon hall, and the two families at the Moss and Thornes, were collateral branches of the great house of Derby, one of which was settled at Elford in this county; the family also we speak of had estates in that place, or near it, also at Edinghall, near Elford.

We find, that Thomas, in 1583, of Shenstone parish, had issue, 1. Henry; 2. Thomas; Alice, married to Henry Symmonds, gent.; Joan, wife of John Adams; Elizabeth, and Margaret. Henry died in 1589, without issue. Thomas, by Margaret his wife, had issue Thomas, William, Margery, Dorothy, and Elizabeth. Thomas, by Joan his wife, had issue another Thomas, born in 1664; and Elizabeth; also Dorothy, wife of George Harrifon, of Bloxwich, gent. grandfather to — Harrifon, of the same place, gent. 1770. The father died in 1687. Thomas lived some time at Fotherley, and, by Mary his wife had issue Thomas, born in 1702; Edward, born in 1712; and Eleanor, who died in 1715. Thomas possessed lands in Thornes, Fotherley, Little Sutton, and elsewhere; by —, daughter and heir of — Handley, of Fotherley, had issue Thomas, John, or Joshua, a tanner in the city of Lichfield, who died unmarried about the year 1755, and one daughter, married to — Seale, of Edinghale, by whom she had no issue; secondly, to — Hill, of Edinghale, by whom she hath a daughter, aged two years. Thomas, now of Thornes, is a bachelor.

In 1767, Thomas Stanley paid 2s 6d. ob'. quarterly assessment to the royal aid. In 1692, widow Stanley, and son, paid to the poll-tax.

Under the article of Fotherley I spoke of the Browns, of that place, and Thornes, therefore I have not repeated the account here, but have lately met with the following remark, not inserted in Fotherley; "That William Brown, of Thornall (Thornes hall), in the 18th year of the reign of James I. reserved a power to settle an estate upon a wife by deed, and after married Anne Lowe, widow, and upon her settled the Thornalls. He died in 1644, and the Committee at Stafford allowed her to possess

"possess her jointure. Signed Edward Leigh, H. Stone, Ph.
 "Jackson, Leicester Barbour, and William Bendy." Samuel
 Brown, mentioned at Fotherley hall, probably was his son.

N E T H E R S T O N A L,

Or, as it is often called, Stonall Inferior, and Lower Stonall, is in circuit three miles, separated by the high road to Birmingham and Aston Parva, from Mill green, Druids heath, and Thornes, leading over Lyndon green; from Stafford and Lichfield over Cannoc-wood; and is bounded by Lyndon, Fotherley, the Boffes, Thornes, and Druid heath, towards Aldrich, and by a small part of Over Stonall. It is, in some degree, more noted than either of these hamlets, as being the place of worship for the inhabitants on this side of the parish.

Robert de Olgio, son of the baron of that place, or castle, in Normandy, was one of the adventurers who attended William duke of Normandy, in his attempt upon England; and, as a reward for his services had, among other goodly manors and lordships, this of Nether Stonall, which he granted * to the collegiate church of St. George, near Oxford; his successors

* Terram de utraque Stonehala, Foresthulle, &c. cum capellis in eisdem, boscis, villenagiis, redditibus, decimis, et aliis rebus de feodo ejus ecclesiæ Sti' Georgii pertinentibus, dedit Robertus Fitz Nigel de Oileo, cœnobio de Oseneio, ann. 1129.
 Monast. Ang. II. 138.

confirmed his charter, and of these the charter of Henry the Second of that name baron D'Oyley and Hooknorton, in Oxfordshire, confirms the church of Seneston, and other its rights, to Osney abbey; to this is witness Robert D'Oyley, his brother, afterwards the sixth English baron of that family, in the reigns of king Richard I. and king John.

I find certain lands, as demesne, continued in the abbey of South Osney till Robert King, the last abbot, surrendered the abbey, with its estates, to king Henry VIII. in 1539, after being annexed to it 410 years, among which are named its lands and rights in Over Stonall, Shenstone, Nether Stonall, and Thornes. These remained in the crown till the reign of James I. who, in the third year of his reign, passed them away by letters patent, dated at Westminster, July 2, to Rowland Fryth, and Peter Alport, esq. and their heirs.

Not only the people of this hamlet, but all the parishioners of Shenstone, have a tradition of a chapel in old times, situate in the upper part of it towards Thornes and the road leading to Upper-stonall, but mixed with fable. Affuredly some charters, dated in the reigns of Henry I. and Stephen, take notice of such chapel or chapels in Stonall. There is, as a farther evidence of it, a piece of land called the Chapel piece, consisting of three acres and an half, divided into two parts, one the property of Thomas Stanley, of Thornes, the other of Thomas Adcock, of Lyndon. Around this are several enclosures, called by the names of the Chapel-field, Chapel-hills, Church fields, and Church leasows, which, most probably, were lands formerly appropriated for the maintenance of the clergymen who officiated at Shenstone church, or this chapel of ease to it, at Nether Stonall. The very year when the chapel was taken away may in part be known from this circumstance; that, in the year

1545,

1545, in the reign of Henry VIII. it was ordered by act of parliament, that where the glebes, tythes, and revenues, of a church, are not sufficient to find a priest or curate to minister in a chapel, within a mile, or some such distance, from the church; and the repairs, ornaments, and duties, are too expensive for the parishioners of both churches, if one be not above the yearly value of six pounds, as rated and valued to the king in his courts of first-fruits and tenths, by consent of the ordinary of the diocese where they stand, by the assent of the incumbent, and of such as had just right, title, and interest, to the patronage of them, being of full age; they might be united, and as good in law, and to continue for ever consolidated in such manner and form as by writing or writings under the seals of the ordinary, incumbent, and patron, shall be declared and set forth, reserving to the king the first fruits and tenths.

As the abbey of Osney was dissolved in the year 1539, and all its lands and rights seized and passed to the crown, we may naturally conclude, there was little or nothing left for the support of the minister at Nether Stonall, if, indeed, he was a different person from the vicar of Shenstone. From the time* of the Dissolution under Henry VIII. when such ravages were made upon the monasteries and the estates of the church, serious men have lamented, that a better provision had not been reserved for the maintenance of the clergy, who would thereby have been secured from contempt and distress.

The South chancel of Shenstone church was built, it is said, of materials taken from Nether Stonall chapel, which is not unlikely, being different from the rest of that structure, and chiefly of brick-work; and, as that chapel was dedicated to St.

* See Fiddes's Life of Cardinal Wolsey.

Peter,

Peter, there is a memorial of it in the work, namely, the keys which are generally given him, and of large proportion, with two crosses, one in the form of that on which our Saviour suffered, the other a common one, framed of bricks burnt of a blue cast. In this chancel the lords of the feignory, named Fryths, had their seats, and in general the inhabitants of Thornes and the Stonall districts.

Hugh de Twine held Stonall, in the reign of William I. or William Rufus, which other lords held under him by military service, but all others under the lord of the fee of whose barony it was. The said Hugh, and those persons who held under him, passed it by charter to the canons of Osene, in the isle of Osene, near Oxford, which grant was confirmed at that time by the superior lord Nigel de Olgio, and also in the reign of Henry I. by Henry d' Oyley.

In the upper part of Nether Stonall, near the chapel-yard, stands a very handsome new erected mansion, built by Thomas Dickenson, gent. of a family of some note, and long settled here. In the 19th year of the reign of James I. John Dickenson had lands in Nether Stonall. Thomas is mentioned in certain deeds to have possessed lands in the Heathfield in 1654. Henry, of this place, in 1658, was witness to the purchasing of an estate here, by Anne Bracegirdle, of Gorse, near Walsall, of Henry Hunt, of Nether Stonall. Thomas, in the 14th year of the reign of Charles II. had lands in the Nether Hookfield, and was resident here. John, in 1669-70, witnessed a deed of Edward Wyatt's selling land here to John Wadams. The same year John Dickenson, of Ashby-de-la-zouch, in Leicestershire, ironmonger, purchased the Glass-houses, Long-crofts, and Buff-crofts, to which are evidences Thomas Dickenson and Margaret Hall; these lands are in this hamlet. In 1667, Thomas
paid

paid 6s. 1d. ob. quarterly, to the royal aid. In 1669-70, Thomas and John are witneffes to a deed of John Adcock's passing lands to John Wadams; and to Edward Wyatt's fale of lands to John Wyatt; also James Whitehall's fale of lands to Thomas Ofsley; all in Nether Stonall. In 1675, the said Thomas and John were evidences to the fale of an estate by John Wadams to John Adcock of Nether Stonall. In 1667, Thomas, the elder, was trustee to the marriage settlement between Alexander Adcock and Jane Tomkys. In 1661, we find John Dickinson, of Nether Stonall, gent. witness to a deed passing lands from John Bulkley, of Little Aston, and Mary, wife of Joseph Bulkley, son of John, to John Wadams; also to the fale of estates from John Adcock, of Nether Stonall, to Alexander his brother; and from John Jobbern to the same Alexander Adcock. Thomas, son of John Dickenson (1692), and John his son, paid the poll-tax for themselves and wives, which Thomas was living here in 1718. In the year 1714, the said Thomas, with John, then of Tonge in Leicestershire, passed a fine of lands in this hamlet to John Adcock, and Thomas Dickenson living in 1726, if not in 1734, at Nether Stonall. Mary, widow of this Thomas, and daughter to Samuel Brown, of Fotherley-hall, gent. lived to a great age, and happy in enjoying a good state of health till the time of her decease, in January, 1767, being then at least ninety years old. They had issue John, who, by——, daughter of —— Fox, of Colehill, in Warwickshire, had a son, now of Bilstone, in Staffordshire, and three daughters; Mary, wife of Martyn Wood, of Shenstone, who died in 1761, without issue; the others married to —— Shaw, of Walsall, and to ——, of Northampton.

The last mentioned Thomas Dickinson, gent. took down the old mansion-house, and rebuilt the present handsome one, with

a neat court, and other conveniences, but at such an expence as to injure his family ; he sold it, with the lands adjoining, a part of the Boffes, which the family had long enjoyed, with the Castles, in Upper Stonall, to the late lord of the manor (except that an annuity was reserved for the support of his widow). Since what I observed of the Castles in my account of Upper Stonall, I have learned, that they were formerly the possession of Humphry Edjial, father of Hamlet, father of Humphry, an old man, yet living at Thornes, in this parish, whose ancestors were of note, and gave name to Edjial hall, near Lichfield, the estate of Fettiplace Nott, of Lichfield, esq. The mansion which Thomas Dickenson sold, with the Boffes, and Castles, are the estates of the present lord of the manor.

The *Hunts* seem to have been inhabitants of this place in early times. John Hunt, gent. died at Nether Stonall, in 1598, and left, as I think, John, who is mentioned in 1606. They had lands in the Chapel-field, Heathfield, Middlefield, and others, named the Church Leasfows, Ham, or Hands Riddings, Twenty-acre piece, the Flatts, Codcrofts, Stony-acres, High-ath pieces, Birch acres, Holy-lands, the Two Feathers, Flat-head, Little acres, Gorsty-gap, Sharp acres, with land belonging to Osney abbey, and in the Nether Hook-field, most, if not all, lying in this hamlet. The house or messuage that belonged to this family, I take to have been that belonging to John Horton, lately deceased, afterwards to Edward Adcock, and now to Edward Adcock, of the Ashcrofts, his eldest son.

John Hunt, in the 10th year of the reign of James I. sold the Ham Riddings, formerly the estate of the abbots of Osney. He died about the 16th year of the reign of James I. leaving Henry, his eldest son and heir ; Rowland, living in 1646 ; and William ; with three daughters, Mary, Margaret, and ———,

wife of Thomas Bibbe. In 1635, Rowland Fryth, esq. released to Henry Hunt his claim in a messuage and lands which he then held. He left issue, as I think, Henry, Rowland, and William. Rowland had issue Henry, who, in 1658, sold to Anne Bracegirdle, of Gorfcot, near Walsall, a messuage, with lands appertaining thereto; a pasture and right of common which had belonged to Osney abbey, and were reputed parcel of the Mofs-house manor; also Well-meadow in Nether Stonall before purchased of Alexander Ward, gent. In the 14th year of the reign of king Charles II. the said Anne passed them away to Thomas Offley, of Gorfcot near Walsall, and to Richard Offley, of Brynton in Staffordshire; the same year, Henry Hunt, grandson of John, sold to Thomas Offley, of Gorfcot, and to Richard Offley, of Brynton, a messuage, with a close adjoining, three Church leasows, Twenty-acre piece, land in Nether Hookfield, Stony-acres, High-ash pieces, with the Birch-acres, Holylands, the Two-feathers, Flatt-heads, Little-acres, the flatt in Chapel-field, Gorfsty-gap, Sharp-acres, with the timber and right of common on the waste grounds that belonged to the abbey of Osney, reputed as parcel of the Mofs-house manor, and which paid eleven shillings yearly to the king.

Henry died in 1652, leaving legacies to William his brother, and to his brother Rowland's children: to Rowland himself 24 acres, also lands in the Chapel field, Middle-field, and Heath-field, with Codcroft, and a flatt; remainder to William, his son; also to Elizabeth, wife of Rowland; to three of his sister's children, and her daughters, named Ashford; to two children of Simon Bibbe, to Isabel Turner's son, and to Isabel, his own wife. Henry, eldest son of Rowland, was made chief heir to considerable possessions, under the direction of Alexander Ward, gent. and others; but he seems to have wasted his estate, and to have

G g

died

died before the year 1616, as a deed I saw mentions his felling other lands a little before, near the time of his decease. Rowland Hunt, of Nether Stonall, and Thomas Hunt, of Lyndon, in this parish, paid, in 1667, to the quarterly assessment for aiding king Charles II.

The family of *Butteries*, or *Bullaries*, were of note here about the time of queen Elizabeth. In the reign of James I. Anthony Butteries was concerned in the sale of lands by Richard Greenhall, of the Ashcrofts, to Rowland Ridding, of Nether Stonall; in the fourth year of the reign of king Charles I. he and Rowland Hunt were empowered by the lords of the manor to give Anne Ridding seisin of Queb-meadows, which she had purchased of the said lords. His issue were Antony, Humphry, and Roger, who all had possessions in Over Stonall, Nether Stonall, and Lyndon, also in the Heath-field. Antony, in 1667, paid to the assessment for the royal aid; in 1670, he sold to John Dickinson, of Ashby de-la-Zouch, in Leicestershire, gent. three closes in Nether Stonall and Thorne, called the Glas-houses, Longcroft, and Buttcroft, at this time possessed by Thomas Stanley, of Thornes, gent.

The mansion of the Butteries family I suppose to be that in the tenure of William Swan, late the estate of Martyn Wood, next of John Levett, of Whichnover, esq. now of John Dolphyn. Antony Butteries abovesaid retired to Burton upon Trent, and, dying there in 1676, was entombed at Shenstone. This is the latest account I meet with of this family.

The *Wyatts* were of note in this parish, being settled in Fotherly, Lynn, Over Stonall, and Nether Stonall; but, as their principal mansion was in the last-mentioned hamlet, I chose to speak of them here. In all probability they have long had possessions there, as we find them nearly as soon as the parish-register begins.

begins. William Wyatt died in 1580, and William, as I think, his son, had issue William, Roger, John, Thomas, Nicolas, Harry, who died in 1607, and Anne, wife of John Acock. The family in this place ended in a female (wife of Edward Swift), who ended her days in 1769, in the mansion formerly belonging to the Wyatts, built in the style of those houses that were erected in the days of king James I. or Charles I. of half timbered and plastered walls, late the property of Martyn Wood, now of Joseph Wadams, gent.

Robert Wyatt owned a messuage and lands in Nether Stonall, which formerly belonged to the abbey of Osney (most likely conveyed to him by Rowland Fryth, and Peter Alport, esqrs.), and paid a crown-rent of 4s. 4d. : these he passed to Rowland Ridding, in the 8th year of the reign of James I. with a messuage and lands in which Nicolas Wyatt then lived, and to which purchase he is witness, and which, in the 10th year of the reign of James I. were farther confirmed to Ridding, with a messuage held by Nicolas Wyatt.

William Wyatt, in the 13th year of the reign of James I. was concerned in a deed passing lands from Richard Sylvester, of Over Stonall, to Rowland Ridding; and from John Hunt, of Nether Stonall, to the same Rowland, 19 James I. Ralph, whom I take to be brother to this William, was of Lynne, in which he purchased an estate of John Best, and Elizabeth his wife, which afore time was the property of William Milner. Besides other issue, he had Mary, wife of James Whitehall, who, in 1662, sold land called the Nate to John Jennines, of Nether-Stonall, which Ralph Wyatt, in the 24th year of the reign of Charles I. bought of J. Best, of Fotherley. The said James and Mary Whitehall, with John Brown, of Fotherley, gent. (14 Charles II.) sold other lands to Simon Wigan; in 1664,

they fold lands to the same John Brown, gent. I find a Mary Wyatt, who, on July 26, 1656, bought land called the Nate, (near that so named of Ralph Wyatt's, and Alice his wife) of John Best, and Elizabeth his wife, to which is evidence William, (as I suppose) her son, who then residing at Lichfield, in 1654, fold to Edward, his brother, of Nether Stonall, the messuage in which Edward lived, with a croft, a moor, ten acres in Leet-field and Chapel-field, the Flatts near Edward Fryth's land, the Sharps, High-ashe, land called the Birmingham-gate, in Middle-field, towards Heath-field hedge, with land in Hook-field. Possession was given by Henry Fryth, gent. attorney for William Wyatt, and Elizabeth his wife, of which were evidences John Adcock, Rowland Serjeant, and William Stanley. The same year a fine was passed at Westminster before Oliver St. John, Edward Atkyns, Matthew Hale, and Hugh Wyndham, Justices, by Edward Wyatt, Rowland Serjeant, and Margaret, wife of William Malpas, plaintiffs; and by William Wyatt, Elizabeth, his wife, John Colyere, and Jane his wife, Nicolas Parker, and Joan his wife, John Manley, and Anne his wife, deforciant; of two messuages, one cottage, two gardens, fifty-four acres of land and common pasture in Nether Stonall, Over Stonall, and Aldrich; this fine Edward discharged to Thomas Wilbraham, sheriff of Staffordshire, May 29, 1655. Also we find, that William Wyatt, and Elizabeth, his wife, of Lichfield, in the reign of Charles I. fold to Edward Quebb-meadow in Nether Stonall, lands in Lee-field, Hook-field, on Perry-hill, near William Wyatt's and Thomas Dickenson's, which were purchased by William, the father of William and Edward, for which was paid a crown-rent of 1s. 7d.; Carters field in Over Stonall, lying between Rowland Edjials, Rowland and John Riddings, eastwards of Thornes and Lynn, heretofore bought of Richard Sylvester, gent. by William Wyatt,

Wyatt, the elder, which paid a crown rent of 8d. Long meadow, and Moor, in Footherley, near Roger Sylvester's, then held by Elizabeth Gibbons, widow; land then held by Sybil Fletcher, widow, called Riddings, and in Leet-field, Hook-field, Ramsted Moor, between Mary Wyatt's and John Banks, in the Heath-field, on the Crofs pits, and near Stanleys, the Flatts near Stanley's, paying 6d. crown-rent; witneffes William and Mary Thornton, Edward Hollingham, and others.

James Whitehall, and Mary his wife, in the 18th year of the reign of Charles II. with Rowland Greenall, Sarah his wife, and Robert Greenall, passed a fine to Samuel Brown, gent. to confirm to him a messuage and twenty-one acres of land in Footherley, before Orlando Bridgman, Thomas Tyrrel, Samuel Brown, and John Archer, justices at Westminster.

Edward Wyatt, brother to William, of Lichfield, had, besides other issue, two sons, William, and Nicolas. William, in 1675, was concerned with John Thornton, of Nether Stonall, in selling lands in the Heath field, and the Stony acres; and with John Jobbern in passing away land in the same field; in 1680, he also signed the title made by his father, disposing of some property in Nether Stonall to John Wadams. Edward, their father in 1667, paid a quarterly assessment to the royal aid of 2s. 7d. at which time the widow Wyatt, of Over Stonall, paid to the same. Nicolas had issue, by Mary Hunt, of Nether Stonall, William, and other children. In 1687, he was concerned with Thomas and James Huniborn, and John Jackson, in a deed passing lands to John Wadams; and, in 1692, was one of the assessors to the poll-tax, to which William, his son, and his wife, also Sarah Wyatt, widow, of Footherly, paid. Nicolas, son of Nicolas, in 1695, married Sarah, daughter of William Clare, of Tipton, gent. a family long settled there, of good rank;

rank. Upon this, Sarah Clare, his wife, he settled a messuage, gardens, the Flatts, land in Chapel-fields, and in three other fields in or near Stonall; a meadow, with Greenall's meadow, Hook-close, Carters-close, Long-moors, with other lands; to which settlement were evidences William Clare, senior, of Tipton, William Clare, junior, and Moses Byrd, of West Bromwich; also trustee to it. This Nicolas, in 1721, was one of the principal men of this parish, that empowered John Brown, gent. to recover from Chancery the legacy of Grenada Brown, gentlewoman. This Nicolas and Sarah had issue Joseph, and I think another son, and two daughters; for, in 1724, October 7, Nicolas and Sarah Wyatt, by deed, passed over to Joseph, their son, their estate at Nether Stonall, paying legacies on their decease to his sister, or sister-in-law, then wife of Henry Wollaton, of Hedgeford, near Cannoc; and to his sister, Sarah, wife of Edward Swift, living in July, 1770; Sarah, his wife, died in 1769.

Joseph Wyatt, in 1728, passed Greenall's meadow, a moor in Nether Stonall, and Carters-field close, in Over Stonall, to Michael Wale, of Lichfield. In right of Nicolas, his father, he possessed lands called the Twenty-acres, in Nether Stonall, and land adjoining to Quebb-meadows. In 1732, he sold to Joshua Wafforn, of Stonely, gent. a messuage at Nether-stonall, gardens, the enclosed Flatts in Chapel-field, with the Sharp-acres in the same, a meadow near the house, Greenalls, Hook-closes, Flatts, Flatt-heads, in Middle-field, Long-moors, Carters-field, Croffen-pits, land in Heath-field, ten acres enclosed in Chapel-field, in the tenure of Nicolas Wyatt, for the term of a thousand years, paying a pepper-corn yearly; and that he might make an end of what his ancestors had possessed in part before the reign of Elizabeth; in 1734, he sold to Joseph

Wadams, gent. nine closes called the Flatts, also Pit-close, Hill-close, Chapel-yard-close, Hook-close, lying near the lands of Henry Dolphyn and Thomas Dickenfon, gent. Carter-field-close in Over Stonall, other lands lying to Joseph Parker's of Lichfield, and Thomas Dickenfon's, gent. two closes called the Long-moors, in Fotherley, with other fields lying to Thomas Stanley's, — Cooper's, Joseph Wadams, and Richard Fletcher's, gents. which paid 4s. 3d. yearly to the lord of the fee. Notwithstanding his wasting all the family estates, he afterwards recovered himself greatly, living at some distance from Shenstone, and died in the present reign; leaving his second wife a widow, and withal a handsome fortune to Sarah Swift, his sister, for her life, and to her sons, Joseph Swift, of the Boffes, John, of Lynne, with their sisters.

The Adcocks had two good houses in this hamlet, but, as they have all left it, I intend saying something of the family in my account of Lynne, or Lyndon, where the principal heir resides.

In this hamlet of Nether Stonall, we meet with a family of good account, named *Wadams*. Whence they came into the county of Stafford I could not learn, but find they had possessions at Longdon, near Lichfield, in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. for then was living there Richard Wadams, who had Richard, that purchased lands of Richard Hanley, and others, at Longdon; the last-mentioned Richard Wadams had issue John, who, in 1646, was executor to Rowland Ridding, of Nether Stonall, and in that capacity made a dividend of the effects, a third part of which was paid to Catharine, widow of Rowland Greenall, of Shenstone, who had also a claim to a share of a messuage, a croft, and nine acres of land lying in the Nether-field in Lower Stonall, then held by Rowland Hunt. In

1648,

1648, John Wadams releas'd to Henry Hunt, of this place, the tythes of lands in the Chapel-fields enclosed by Rowland Hunt; to which releafe were evidences Thomas Rugeley, esq. Thomas Bennet, and Rowland Hunt. In 1655 he made an exchange of lands in Hook-field, and on Perry-hill, lying between the land of Edward Fryth, esq. and Mary Wyatt; in 1667, he paid to the affessment for the royal aid, at which time lived Richard Wadams, of Longdon, who had several estates in that place, and at Bradley-fields.

In 1699-70, John Wadams, of Longdon, Mary his wife, and John their son, joined in purchasing and also exchanging lands in Nether Stonall, and Chapel-fields, with Edward Wyatt, and William his son. In 1671, John Wadams, of Nether Stonall, and Catharine his wife, purchased other lands of the Adcocks. In 1672, John Wadams, of Longdon, bought the Pear-tree crofts, and the Abbey butts, with other fields there, of William Slater and Richard Marshall; also, three years after, he, with John his son pass'd away lands in the Hook-field, in Nether Stonall, lying between the property of John Brown, gent. Rowland Reading, and Edward Wyatt; also in the Middle field, lying between that of Abraham Jordan, and William Hunt; to the deed are evidence Thomas and John Dickenson. In 1678, John Wadams, of Lower Stonall, purchased fields named the Upper-ends, others lying near the Pitchley-fields, with part of the Gorty-moors of John Banks; Elizabeth his wife, Edward, and Sarah, their children, all of Upper Stonall, seizine of which was given by John Brown, gent. William Stone, and Henry Farnel. About the same time he was concerned in the passing away of lands, called the Stony-acres, in or near the Heath-field, by John and Ann Thornton, of Lower-Stonall. In 1686, he bought lands in the Hurst-fields, in Lyndon, with other fields
lying

lying towards those of Humphry Persehouse, gent. and William Botham; also others lying towards the estates of Anne Brandreth, widow, Humphry Persehouse, John Bulkley, of Little Aston, and Margery, wife of Joseph, son of John Bulkley. In 1692, we find John Wadams, of Nether Stonall, paid towards the poll tax; to Joseph, son of Joseph Wadams, and father of the present Joseph, an uncle left the mansion and lands lying in this hamlet. In 1725, Catharine Wadams paid eleven shillings for the use of the Pendrels heirs, who had such crown rents settled upon them by king Charles II. for their endeavours to preserve him after the battle at Worcester. In 1730-1 Joseph Wadams paid the same sum, and most likely the present possessor pays the same.

In 1726, Joseph Wadams, of Stonall, son of Thomas, of Longdon, married Anne, daughter of John Smallwood, of Great Barre, to whom were settled as trustees John Stokes, of Dippings in Tettenhall, and William Adcock, of Nether Stonall, and upon her he settled the messuage here, lands named the Flatts, Crofley Pit pieces, Home Riddings, Quebb Meadows, the Moors, and the Chapel Hill pieces. By this Anne Smallwood he had issue one son, Joseph, and three daughters. This last mentioned Joseph rebuilt the family house at Stonall. In 1758, he purchased lands and a mansion adjoining of Martyn Wood, of Shenstone, gent. and, in 1760, the estate near him, which had been long in the family of the Adcocks, but lately in Ambrose Tibbats, of Bilstone. This Joseph Wadams married first —, daughter of John Cook, and secondly, —, daughter of — Cox, of the Goffes near Bell Broughton, but hath no issue.

The several families of Sedgewick, Powell, Offley, and Stokes, had estates in Nether Stonall, but little is said of them farther than has been already observed.

H h

Greensbury,

Greensbury, or Greenberry Hill, in this hamlet, is a delightful situation, facing Druid's Heath, at a good distance from the road leading from Sutton Colefield to Stafford. It hath only one farm house, in the tenure of John Rawlins (son of Francis, who held it), whose family came from a place near Stafford castle, which yet bears the name of Rawlins's pieces. The farm with the Peatmore and part of the Boffes is rated at 200l. yearly, but is the estate of William Tenant, esq. lord of the manor.

L Y N N E, or L Y N D O N.

The hamlet of Lynne is one continued road from Upper Stonall to Shenstone village, extending itself full two miles, but hath not more than a dozen houses. It is bounded by Shenstone, Fotherley, Nether Stonall, Over Stonall, Chesterfield, and the Ash Crofts.

There were two families, named, as I conjecture, from this place, settled here, or at Allerschal (Aldershaw), in the neighbourhood, as appears by two deeds in my possession, one of Adam de Lynn or Lynde, dated 1311, and the other in 1315, 8 Edward II. of John Fitz Nicolas de la Lynde.

Lynne Hall was, unquestionably, the chief mansion in this hamlet. What figure it formerly made is hard to say, but
what

what remains of it at present is mean enough, and stands upon little ground, exclusive of the barns and other outbuildings in the hands of a tenant, late John, now James Moseley, his son.

The first family that I find possessors of Lynne Hall, was that of the *Stanleys*, and, as I think, in the reign of king Henry VIII. About the time of James I. or Charles I. it was alienated with other estates of considerable value, to the Erpes, by Thomas Stanley, esq. of Aldersey Hall, in Cheshire, father, or grandfather of Thomas Stanley, who was created a baronet by king Charles II. June 25, 1660.

Of the *Erpes* the first we meet with possessed of Lynne Hall was Francis, in the reign of James I. or Charles I. who had issue a son of the same name, a busy man in the troubles in behalf of the Parliamentarians. In the 11th year of the reign of king Charles II. he purchased the peal woods and coal pit leasows in Wyrley Parva, of Thomas Fowke, esq. and Ferrars Fowke, his son, with other lands there adjoining; and at that time, or soon after, he purchased a fourth part of the manor of Wall, with other estates and tenements therein; as also at Shenstone, in Pipe, Hamerwick, Aldershaw, and Lichfield, all in the county of Stafford, with several woods and coppices, two pieces called the Muckleys lying in Pipe and Wall; two pieces in Hamerwick, called the Lady Hayes, Wall meadows in Wall, and lands in Pipe near it, with other premises in Shenstone, Pipe, and Wall; the pieces named the White Leasows near Wall, but in the parish of Shenstone, but then under lease from the sub-chancellor and vicars choral of Lichfield for more than sixty years from the year 1646; a burgage tenure in the Bridge-street in the same city, a messuage in Bacon-street, with crofts and barns, a moor called Taverner's moor, a meadow called Alefmore, fe-

veral flats and parcels of field ground in the county of Lichfield, granted July 20, 1640. Also, soon after, three acres in Monkfield, two acres in Smythfield, and one land in Hungerfield, in Lichfield field. In 1644 the said Francis Erpe*, of Lynne Hall, gent. was chosen by col. Chadwick, capt. Leicester Barbour, William Bendy, — Crompton, — Gregg, capt. Henry Stone, &c. part of the committee at Stafford, on their side, one of the two assessors of Edward Stamford, esq. of Perry Barre, with Thomas Jordan, of Perry, to set the lands to the best advantage, and pay Dorothy, wife of the said Edward Stamford, the fifths, also to allot her Perry-hall, and two closes called Pale close, and Bromes leasow, at an appointed rent, her husband being a delinquent, and in arms against the parliament, she on the one hand engaging to secure Francis Erpe from the Royalists, and the committee to protect Thomas Jordan, and to pay weekly assessments for what she keeps in her hands. In 1667, — Erpe, of Lynne, paid 3s. 7d. ob. to the assessment for the royal aid, for one quarter; but this person seems to have been one of his sons. In 1646, the abovesaid Francis Erpe, the active governor of Rushal house against the king, Robert Tutbury, and Gabriel Parkhurst, resided in Dudley castle after its surrender. Francis Erpe, by Lettice his wife, had issue John, William, Henry (who died in 1658), Richard, Thomas, and Francis; also daughters.

Lyndon Hall, and the estates of the Erpe family, were sold in parts about the reign of Charles II. and the hall was held by various tenants, if not sometime by the next purchaser, as by one Walkland, in whose time of holding it Shenstone church was new pewed, as I have seen in a MS, and received by tra-

* MSS notes of the Staffordshire committee penes J. Burnes de Aldershaw.
dition.

dition. Next by —— Nock, after him by Richard Baldwyn, or William Wyvil, but I cannot say which was the first. Of the latter we have an account, that he was a person of circumstances, having an estate of sixty or seventy pounds yearly; that he came from that part of the Peak in Derbyshire that lyeth towards Leek; but being inadvertently the death of a boy, this accident so exceedingly injured and involved him, that he spent most of that fortune. I should have observed, that he lived sometime at Shenstone hall. His sons were Andrew, William, and James; from these are descended several families of the name, in the neighbourhood of Shenstone and Sutton Colefield.

Lettice Erpe, widow of Francis, died at Lynne, October 28, 1669, by which we may nearly ascertain the time of seating the church; the pews, in all probability, being torn in pieces during the ravages of the civil war.

I have before said, that the Erpes sold their estates in parts; but the purchaser of Lynne hall was Humphry Persehouse, son of John Persehouse, gent. descended of John Persehouse, of Walihal, who, in 1583, was, by the queen's herald at arms, declared by sound of trumpet incapable of bearing the coat of arms he had usurped, and orders were given at the same time by the Somerset herald, and others, at Lichfield, to the queen's subjects, that as they tendered her displeasure they should forbear giving him the title or addition of *esquire* or *gentleman*.

Humphry Persehouse left Lynne hall and lands here to —— Lydiatt, his mistress, and to his son by her, for their lives. These possessions that John George Lydiatt sold to William, son of the aforesaid Humphry.

We have some farther account of this family from a noted antiquary*, who says, near Rushall, at a place called Reynolds

* Sir S. Degge.

hall,

hall, is the seat of one John Persehouse, whose father was a practitioner of the law, or his grandfather, and lived in good repute. His son adhered to the king, Charles I. in the late war, and was forced to a composition with the parliament, at the rate of 1191. by the name of John Pierhouse, of Reynolds haw, or hall, Walsai; the said John was prebend and vicar of Weston Pen, and Roffe. The family had this seat in marriage with one of the daughters and coheirs of — Walker, of Reynolds hall, whose ancestor married the daughter and heir of Reynolds, in whose name and family it had for some time continued.

Walker's arms, to which the family of the Persehouse had claim, were; Argent, a chevron, Sable, charged with two bezants, Or, a crescent of the first, between three crescents of the second.

A pedigree of the Persehouse family is in my hands.

John Persehouse, of Reynolds hall, the lawyer, had issue Richard, who, by Frances, daughter of Humphry Wyrley, esq. had issue John (living in the reign of king Charles II), a very loyal person to king Charles I; he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Chester, esq. and had issue John, aged seven in 1663. Him I take to have been the father or elder brother of Humphry, who bought Lynne hall. It seems clear that some of the family lived at this place; for, the register mentions the interment of Granada Persehouse, of Lynne, June 22, 1655.

William, son of Humphry, had issue William, of Reynolds hall, in the commission of the peace, who died in March, 1734, leaving Richard*, and two daughters, by — his wife, daughter of — Parker, gent. He had a second wife, —, daughter of — Townshend, but find no issue by her.

One of the daughters married to John Douglas, D.D. chaplain in ordinary to the king, and canon of Windsor; the other to a clergyman of Herefordshire.

* Who married December 18, 1754, to Miss Rachel Riley.

Richard

Richard Perfehouse, esq. was left a minor. In 1762, he was one of the three persons pricked down for sberiff for the county of Stafford, but was not nominated or confirmed by the king. He became heir to ——— Parker, of Bloxwich, gent. his mother's brother. He married two wives, both daughters of ——— Ryley, of Worcester; by the first he had several children, who all died infants, but none by the latter. He, himself, had a tender constitution, and a thin habit of body which he greatly impaired also by his excesses, all which brought on a fever that carried him off in December, 1771, being not more than forty years old. By will he provided for his widow, but left the chief part of his estates at Reynolds hall, Walsall, in Rushall, with a moiety of the tythes of the last parish in Lynne, &c. to Morton Walhouse, son of ——— Walhouse, esq. of Hatherton on Cannoc, by Frances, sister of Sir Edward Lyttelton, of Pillaton, baronet.

In order to finish what I have to say of Lynne hall, I shall add, that I find one James Erpe, of Lichfield, in the reign of Henry VIII. whose son James married, in 1598, to Catharine Sherwood, of that city; and Henry to Alice Seale, in 1605, at Stow church, one of which persons I look upon to be father of Francis, who settled in Shenstone, and there purchased estates.

Pouke House, a messuage so named, formerly the estate of ——— Crowther, was the property of John Molesley, late of Lynne hall, and is in James his son at present: but of this tenement and land heretofore appertaining to it, I observe nothing worth note but the name.

Barnwalls, and *Barnwoods*, are lands so termed in this hamlet, which, as far as I can learn, went, as I have described other estates of the Rugeleys, to the Brandreths, and so to the family of the Hills, of Shenstone park, of which Noel Hill, esq. of Terne, is the present owner, in whom also remain the farms held

in part by John, James, and Thomas Moseley, who hath erected a neat farm house adjoining to the hall aforesaid, and in the Carrington family, held in 1772 by Francis Walters.

Though notice is already taken of the *Rudgings* or *Riddings*, yet finding they were people of considerable property in Lynne, I could hardly pass through this hamlet without adding a word or two more of the family.

It seems then, that they began to settle here in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV. but little mention is made of them till 1470, when they were purchasers of lands, and continued in a thriving situation till the troubles of king Charles I. which ruined them as well as thousands more. Rowland Rudding, in the reign of James I. was of the same stock with James Rudding, who died here in 1581, by William his son. This Rowland purchased lands in fee farm lying at Nether Stonall, and elsewhere, of Rowland Fryth and Peter Alport, esqrs. which they, in the third year of the reign of James I. had received by grant from the crown; also in the thirteenth year of the reign of James I. other lands of Richard Sylvester, in Lynne, to which are witnesses Laurence Serjeant, &c. In the 19th year of the reign of James I. he, for 70l. bought of Rowland Greenhill of the Ashcrofts a messuage, croft, and nineteen acres of land lying near the land of Thomas Stanley, esq. to be held of the king in chief, as of the honour of East Greenwich. In the same reign, he had, from John Hunt, the Ham or Lome Riddings, in three parts, late part of the Moss manor, before belonging to the abbey of Osney. I conclude he died about the year 1646, because at that time his executor — Wadams, of Nether Stonall, paid part of her fortune to Catharine, his daughter, wife of Rowland Greenhill, of Shenstone. By Anne his wife he had issue John Ridding, Mary, and Catharine, which
Mary,

Mary, in 1633, purchased a messuage and lands of William Bruerton. An observer of the difficult times of king Charles I. during the Civil War said, especially of this family, "The Riddings were a good family at Lyndon, by their profession Quakers, and in the troubles suffered greatly, being twice in a very few days plundered of their cattle and provisions; and, farther, obliged to advance considerable sums of money on the propositions of parliament, besides the weekly assessments enforced by the committee residing at Stafford, and their troops. The rough lands or fields, yet so named, were then covered over with shrubs and thickets, in a retired part of which these injured people had made conveniences for their horses and other cattle. The plunderers, then called the Puritans and Reformers of the times, after frequently using these people as aforesaid, assured them of security for the future, against all farther abuses, and engaged that they may bring home their cattle, but soon after seized both waggons and horses." Such was the infelicity of those times, when the most inoffensive people were not in safety as to their persons, nor secure of their food even for an hour.

In the year 1767, William and Nicolas, of Lynne; two of the name of Thomas, of Stonall; William and Edward Rudding; all housekeepers, paid to the assessment for the royal aid, so often expressed. The whole line is now at an end, or reduced to one poor family, resident in either of the Stonalls or Lyndon; such strange vicissitudes does this life afford. The house chiefly of their abode in Lynne I take to have been that in the tenure of Thomas Adcock (1773), but do not positively affirm it.

This mansion is at present a small farm-house, built but a few years since, in other respects convenient enough, having good barns and out-houses, formerly, as I suppose, the property of the Ruddings, next of the Sylvesters, and afterwards of the

Dolphyns, of the Mofse; John Dolphyn being the present owner, to which is annexed land of 200l. yearly value, or thereabouts, which, however, hath been improved, to the great advantage of the owner and tenant.

The Adcocks have been long settled at Nether Stonall and Lynne; in 1584 died Robert Adcock of this parish; Anne, his wife, in 1595; they seem to have had issue Thomas, John, Anne, Alice, and Mary, who all died before the year 1601. John, of Lyndon, son, as I think, to one of these sons, married Mary, daughter of — Wyatt, in 1600, and in 1602 John their son was born; John, the father, or one of the same name, in the eighth year of the reign of James I. was witness to the feisin of lands passed to Rowland Ridding by Rowland Fryth and Peter Alport, esqrs. and was a person of considerable property; in 1652, he was executor to Henry Hunt, gent. John Adcock, living in the troublesome times, was greatly harassed; the family and tradition say, that his fortune was much lessened, and his dependants much abused both by friends and enemies. Not to aggravate circumstances of ill usage from his neighbours, two accounts are here given relating to his hardships in the Civil War, which will at the same instant exemplify the conduct of the parliament committees and agents. Robert Tuthill, governor of Rushall-hall garrison for the parliament in 1644-5, applied to the committee at Stafford* for some farther support for his men, affirming that the weekly assignations were not sufficient, upon which the committee, Thomas Crompton, — Jolliffe, — Swynfen, Edward Broughton, — Gregg, Thomas Pudsey, William Bendy, Henry Stone, John Simcox, Leicester Barbour, Edward Leigh,

* Minutes of the Committee.

Ph. Jackson, Jos. Whitehall, passed an order to collect 90l. immediately, and to engage the public faith for it; from each person subscribed, the twentieth of their personal estates, and the fifth of their land rents were exacted, *viz.* from Humphry Wyrley, of Hampstead, esq. 20l. from John Adcock, of Nether Stonall, 10l. from John Harrison, of Aldrich, 6l. from Thomas Harrison, 4l. from Richard Stone, of Park-street, Walsall, 12l. T. Osborn, 10l. John Cooper, of the Hill, both in Walsall, 10l. from John Anintyn, of Wall, 20l.

The following is a true copy of a receipt to John Adcock, of Nether Stonall, for advancing money to the parliament:

“Forasmuch as John Adcock, of Nether Stonall, hath advanced upon the propositions of parliament the sum of eight pounds, and hath paid the same into the receipt of this garrison of Rushal howse, theis are therefore to command and charge all officers and foldiers under my command; and to request all other the forces for king and parliament, not to molest, vex, trouble, or offer any violence to the said John Adcock, nor to pillage, plunder, or meddle with any of his goods or chattels; he, the said John, still continuing a friend to king and parliament, and not doing, or consenting to the doinge of any thing prejudicial to the kingdom and state. Given under my hand at the garrison of Rushal howse, for king and parliament, this nynth day of May, 1645. Robert Tuthill.”

John Adcock, born in 1602, died in 1654, or thereabouts, for then his will bears date; he left issue John, Alexander, and Anne, wife of H. Webbe, of Hamerwich, gent.

John, in 1667, paid to the royal aid, and, in the reign of king Charles II. purchased of Alexander Ward that estate in Stonall which was aforetime the property of Thomas Rowe. In 1669 he was concerned in an exchange of lands with Edward

Wyatt and John Wadams. In 1671 he sold lands to the said Wadams. He had issue, as I think, John, Alexander, and others. Alexander, in 1674, and other years, paid 13s. 6d. crown rent for land in his possession, as part of the manor of the Moss, of old time belonging to the abbey of Osney. He also purchased an estate in Nether Stonall, of Richard Offley, of Brynton, Staffordshire, in 1687. In 1692 he is mentioned as paying to the poll-tax, a matter, that though given by the parliament in zeal to king William III. was thought a great hardship on the subjects of a free country, and therefore discontinued. "By this bill* all persons (except such as received alms of the parish) were to pay twelve-pence quarterly for one year; all tradesmen and artificers having an estate of the clear yearly value of 300l. and upwards, ten shillings; all gentlemen, or reputed gentlemen, having an estate of 300l. or more; as also clergymen and teachers who had any ecclesiastical benefice or contribution to the value of 80l. *per annum*, or upwards, 20s.; every lord of parliament, either spiritual or temporal, the sum of 10l.; and all persons who should refuse to take the oaths to their majesties double the sums charged by the respective heads.

Alexander Adcock lived to the age of 71, dying in 1721. Besides lands, that he acquired by purchase or otherwise, he had from his father the Church acres in Chapel field, the Flatts on Chapel hill, lands near Unnamed, Hogs hill, part of the High ashes, and Heathfield, part of the Church fields near Cock heaths. In 1677 he married Jane, daughter of William Tomkys, of Lichfield, gent. with whom, besides a handsome fortune, he had lands in Great Wyrley; trustees were Thomas Ward, of Shenstone, and Thomas Dickenson, senior; John Ad-

* Poll-tax bill.

cock, the father, likewise at this time gave them in marriage a messuage and close adjoining, with a flatt, several acres of arable land, a messuage lately bought of John Brown, of Thornes, gent. Green crofts, bought of Thomas Atley; Commons crofts, bought of John Best, of Hintz; pieces in the Chapel field, the Cross pits, and lands bought of Alexander Ward, gent. ditto in the Heath field, Middle field, and at the Hook pits, a piece exchanged with Lydia Malkyn, land on the Chapel hill, late Alexander Ward's, and the Ash lands; to which were evidences William and Thomas Tomkys, and Isaac Hinckley. By this Jane Tomkys, who died in 1729, he had issue William, who died in 1731, aged 55; Thomas, born in 1784; John; and Elizabeth, wife of George Parker, of Whittington.

John, eldest brother of Alexander, in 1692, paid to the poll-tax; in 1676 married Ruth, daughter of — Vaughton, of Tamworth, upon whom he settled in marriage a mansion, and about fifty acres of land, called the Cock heaths, part of Queb meadows, lands in Heath field, Chapel fields, Hook-field, and Middle fields; witness Fr. Wolverstan, Alexander Ward, Alexander Adcock, J. Botte. By this Ruth, who died in 1687, he had issue John, and Jonathan. John married Ann Shipton, of Tamworth, who founded the hospital at London, named by him Guy's hospital, by her he had issue John, and Jonathan, and, as I think, Edward, and others, by a second venture. Edward, of the Ashcrofts, married Elizabeth, widow of Fr. Rawlins; of Greenberry hill (son of John of Lyndon, who came from Rawlins, near Stafford), who had issue Joshua, John, James, of Upper Stonall, Francis, and daughters. John, now of Greenberry hill, married Dorothy, daughter of — Lea, and hath children. By this Elizabeth Smyth, of Wyrley, widow of Fr. Rawlins,

Rawlins, he left issue Edward, now of the Ashcrofts, William Mary, wife of Henry Curzon, of Hill, near Sutton Colefield.

John Adcock had a tolerable good estate in Lynn and Nether Stonall, though the family was visibly on the decline; in 1721 he married Catharine, daughter of — Robinson, sister of Michael of Oldwood, Staffordshire, on whom he settled a mansion at Nether Stonall, the Stoney acres, Coat Leafows, a meadow near, the three Flatts, Queb meadow, Twenty acre pieces, and two meadows adjoining; he died in 1746, leaving John, Jonathan, who died single, 1772, Elias, who also died unmarried, in London, and three daughters; 1. Mary, wife of Walter Bydulph, of Barton under Needwood, esq. uncle to Sir Theophilus Bydulph, baronet, late of Elmhurst, Staffordshire by whom she hath issue, 2. Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Swift, of the Boffes; 3. Catharine, unmarried.

John was bred an attorney, and was steward to John Offley, esq. of Whichmore, Staffordshire, member of parliament for East Retford, Nottinghamshire. He married Eleanor, daughter of — Wright, and hath children. In 1756, March 26, he and Jonathan his uncle, the executors to John deceased, sold the estate at Stonall, and the family mansion, to Ambrose Tibbats, of Bilstone, by which means one of the principal houses of the name of Adcock ceased here. In 1760 the same estate was passed over to Joseph Wadams.

William Adcock, eldest son of Alexander, married Dorothy Lea, of Shenstone village, in 1723; he is mentioned in some writings to have gone before Henry Dolphyn, clerk of the peace, and there to have taken the oaths to king George I. engaging at the same time to register his estate, and name, which was generally done through the kingdom; for the administering of which oaths, registering, and receipts, the said Henry Dolphyn exacted

exacted from the whole country a considerable sum of money. The reason for proceeding in this manner in regard to the oaths, &c. was on account of the plot in favour of the Pretender, for which — Howard, duke of Norfolk, Charles Boyle, earl of Orrery, lord North and Grey, bishop Atterbury, and others, were sent to the Tower; for which the bishop was banished, and Christopher Layer, counsellor at law, executed. This William Adcock possessed a part of the land that made the manor of the Mofs, belonging of old time to South Osney abbey, as appears by an account of the persons who owned them, and who paid the Crown rents yearly for the use of the Pendrels, in the year 1731, of which this William was one; he died the next year, leaving issue Thomas, William, unmarried (1773), Elizabeth, wife of — Simkin, of Swinfen; and Dorothy, wife of John Biddle, or Biddulph, of Nether Whitacre, late of Fotherley; both which have children.

Thomas Adcock, (1773), of Lynne, has a pretty estate in that hamlet and Nether Stonall, to which is annexed a mansion house that hath long appertained to the younger branch of this family; by industry he hath added to his circumstances, and is a considerable tenant upon an estate belonging to John Dolphyn. This Thomas married — Symkin, sister of — Symkin, of Landwood, near Wyrley; she died, but left issue. In the same farm, and near the house in the land of — Rydding, was a burial-ground of the Quakers; it is to this day designedly marked out in the circuit of it by large trees, to prevent its being by mistake ploughed up, and as a respectful memorial. To the same John Dolphyn belongs land formerly John Chatham's, afterwards William Stanley's (in the reign of king Charles II.), in the tenure of John Mosse, of the Woodhouses in Hamerwick,

merwick, till 1747; and since that date in the holding of Thomas Adcock, of Lyndon.

The Whitacres were large open fields, lying to the Sandhills in Upper Stonall, Westward of Lynne town about the fourth of a mile, and contains somewhat more than a mile in circuit, part of them have been long enclosed; and, in 1762, the great open fields, named Neotsfield, near Lynne, Brookfields, near the Cranbrook, and the Whitacres were enclosed by an agreement between the owners, William Tenant, Thomas Hill, John Dolphyn, and Richard Persehouse, esqrs. but at the sole expence of the tenants.

Nates, or Neotsfields, were (in the reign of king Charles I.), or a part of them, the lands of John Best and Elizabeth his wife, of Lynne, which, in 1656, they passed to Mary Wyatt, and which seemed aforetime to have been the property of William Milner, to Mary Wyatt; Henry Fryth, gent. gave feizin, in presence of Thomas Sylvester, Joseph Green, and others. Mary, daughter of the said Mary Wyatt (and Ralph), carried lands so named (being a part purchased of John Best by Ralf Wyatt himself, as the deed expresses), in marriage to James Whitehall; they, in 1662, sold a close called Nate to John Jennings, of Over Stonall. In the 16th year of the reign of Charles II. they sold another close called Neate, with other lands in Lynne, near Best's, to John Brown, of Footherley, gent. That year John Jennings, and Eleanor his wife, passed the Nate in their hands to Samuel Brown, of Footherley, gent.

January 29, 1678, John Barton and Dorothy his wife, of St. Saviour's Southwark, confirmed a deed passing land named the Nate, to Abraham Clifford Clifford, of Woburn, Bucks, for the use of Dorothy, wife of John Barton, and Henry Wigan, her son by Simon Wigan, of Lynne. John Barton, and Do-

rothy his wife, at the same time sold their moiety to the said Henry, who, in 1681, with his sisters, sold to Thomas and James Huniborn, and to John Jackson, of Sutton-Colefield, the Neotscrofts, the Half-nates, a meadow, a parcel of the Nate, and a house, all in Lynne; they again, in the third year of the reign of James II. passed them to John Wadams. In 1726, Thomas Wadams, of Longdon, and Sufannah his wife, settled them upon Joseph their son, then of Nether Stonall; and, as I conjecture, they remain in the possession of Joseph their son (1773).

Francis Erpe, of Lynne, had a tenement and land, either in part of the Whitacres, or adjoining to them, which afterwards came into the name of Bayley, who were settled here in the reign of James I. at which time lived John Bayley, of Lynne, who died in 1662; he had issue John, Abraham, and daughters. Either the last John, or one of his name, paid to the poll-tax in 1692; and had issue William and others. Benjamin Bayley, in the reign of George II. sold the aforesaid tenement and lands to — Clement, alderman of Lichfield, in whose family they lately were on his decease in the reign of George III. In this hamlet Joseph Bayley had a messuage and land, 1770, late Turner's, and heretofore — Moreton's, esq.

The *Serjeants* were people of some good property in this village and Thornes, at both of which they have resided; amongst other lands, they had the Wrenplecks and Wallongs. The first I meet with is Laurence Serjeant, who, in 1605, married Anne Adcock, and had issue Rowland, William, and others. Rowland, of Thornes, in 1654, was executor to John Adcock, of Nether Stonall, and died 1667, after he had paid his assessment to the royal aid; he left issue, Rowland Edward, and Job. Rowland had issue Job, born in 1695, who, in 1725, married

K k

Mary,

Mary, daughter of —— Vere. Another Job Serjeant, 1687, married Margaret Tilly, of a good family in this neighbourhood. They had, as I am told, William, who, in the reign of George I. or George II. sold the reliques of the family estate to Richard Passaw, of Nether Stonall, and Job, who died lately.

The *Bothams* had an estate here as early as queen Elizabeth. This family had their seat at Bothams Hall, in the High Peak of Derbyshire, whence a branch of them came to Michael Over, Derbyshire, and about king Charles the First's time purchased the ancient seat of the Burtons, of Lyndley or Lyndholme, in Loxley, near Uttoxeter. How the family came by lands in this place I cannot learn; but find John Botham often evidence to the grants of lands by Rowland Fryth and Peter Alport, particularly in the 8th year of the reign of James I. Rowland Botham, in the 22d year of the reign of Charles I. owned part of the Hurstfield in Lynne, and lands named the Bothams in Wood-end, afterwards the estate of Francis Priest, who, in 1687, sold them to Walter Fowler, gent. as did Abraham Griffin fields so named, near the Pleckmoors, both which, in 1713, were in the Adams's, of Fotherley. William Botham is mentioned of Lynne, 1685. His estate, in part, went by purchase to the Dolphyns; John Dolphyn, esq. had it 1773; a part is in John Cook, of Fotherley, or Adams's heirs, having fallen to them by purchase of James Adams: to whom also Abraham Griffyn sold a share left him by the will of John Sylvester.

Birchleys is an estate and mansion in Lynne, somewhat out of the road, and leaning towards Fotherley. It was formerly the residence of a younger son of the Coopers, of which family mention is made in Little Aston. This place is sometimes called Owl-hall, from its retired situation, and, with the farm belonging

ing to it, is in the tenure of George Botte. The Coopers had another farm here, formerly the possession of Thomas Handley.

The family of *Collins* are found in this parish as soon as the register begins, viz. 1579. They lived at Aston, Little Hay, Fotherley, and Lyndon, and are hardly to be distinguished; only of late years (in the reign of George I. and George II.), was Sampson Collins, of Lynne, who enjoyed an estate of the Hunts, and passed it to Thomas Barfoot of Shenstone village.

In the reign of king Charles II. lived here Thomas Barfoot, a clergyman, who had issue (1672) Thomas, and other children; he left Thomas an useful and active person, well remembered in the parish, by —, daughter of — Hodgets; he left five daughters, coheirs; one of them only is married, to James Rawlins, of Penford in Upper Stonall; this farm is in the tenure of Edward Hoskyns, of Stonall.

John Browne, gent. of Thornes and Fotherley, was owner of a tenement and land here; this came by purchase to Daniel Stringer, whose nephew and heir, now living, wasted it in part, and then sold them to ----- Sylvester, and after to - ---- Webb, of Hamerwick; John Swift holds them.

The Whitleys are the name of a messuage, croft, and lands, formerly the property of Rowland Ridding, and Thomas Ridding, his nephew, of Lynne. In the 19th year of the reign of James I. a part of the Whitleys were in Rowland Fryth, esq. and his heirs, and are described to lie on the Ickenild road.

The family of *Best* had possessions in Lynne, Fotherley, Stonall, and Hintz, some of which bear their name. John Best, in the 22d year of the reign of king Charles I. and Elizabeth his wife, sold lands to Roger Bulkeley, in Hurstfield, with a piece near Rowland Botham's, and lands late Francis Erpe's,

and other fields near the estate of Jane Brandreth, widow: that year, being then of Hintz, they disposed of a part of the Leet, or common fields, in Lynne, with fields in the Thornyhurst, near the rough Leafows, and Gibriddings, others near the Ravenscoate, a meadow held by John Collins, three pieces in the Hurstfields, between Thomas Riddings and Jane Brandreths, held by John Hervey and Henry Anson, of Lynne, who was to hold them under the chief lord of the fee by the usual customs; witnessed by Edward Scott, Roger Bulkeley, and Roger Adams. In the 24th year of the reign of king Charles I. they sold land in Lynne to Raphael Wyatt, *viz.* a close of Springwood, and a meadow in this hamlet, lately purchased of William Milner. This John Best died before 1664, for then Elizabeth, his widow, sold a part of his estate to Robert Griffyn. John Best (perhaps his son), in the 17th year of the reign of Charles II. had lands left here unfold; but before 1677 John Adcock and others had in possession the Commons croft, and what was unfold by his parents John and Elizabeth, who, towards the end of the reign of king Charles I. lived at Footherley.

The Bulkeleys are lands in this place, so named of a family that owned them; these came after to the Erpes, in part, and to John Wilcox, who married Dorcas Bulkeley, about the reign of queen Elizabeth or James I. Humphrey Bulkeley had them and other possessions. Erpe's came to the Persehouse line, as before described. These Bulkeleys derived themselves of the same family with those of Stoke, in Shropshire, and of those that were, in the reigns of Edward IV. and Henry VII. lords of Chedleton and Stanlaw, Staffordshire, and took the name of Stanlaw, originally of Eaton and Bulkeley, in Cheshire. What I find of them here is, that John, son of Humphry, in the 10th year of the reign of James I. had lands in Lynne, Hook-lane,
6 and

and Aston, in this parish. Thomas and Roger were that year evidences to John Hunt's disposal of lands to R. Ridding. John, in the 22d year of the reign of Charles I. bought lands in Lynne of J. Best; in the 23d year of the reign of king Charles II. George Bulkeley was concerned in the sale of an estate by John Byrch, of Aston, to William Pretty, gent. John, and Joseph Bulkeley his son, of Aston, sold lands in the Hurstfields (Lynn), near the Bothams, in 1686. In the same reign, Roger, also the widow, and Thomas Bulkeley, paid to the royal aid in 1667.

Shepherds Hayes, in this village, were the possession of the Duttons, of Wall; after of Crowther; the late Edward Adcock, of the Ashcrofts, purchased them, and Edward his son enjoys them; they lie near the Ashcrofts; as do the Hobmoors, an estate belonging to the Moretons, now invested in Stephen Symphon, of Lichfield, attorney at law, or Charles, his son; in the tenure of Arthur Smyth.

In Lynne, half a mile from Shenstone, adjoining to the Ashcroft farm, are two well-timbered coppices belonging to Noel Hill, and John Dolphyn, esqrs.

Near them is a messuage and farm, formerly the estate of Edward Handley; after of Gilbert Walmsley, of Lichfield, esq. and of Robert Walmsley, esq. register of Lichfield, who married, 1736, to -----, daughter of ----- Aston, of Stow near that city, lately in the tenure of Nathaniel Curzon, now of his daughter, wife of ----- Spencer; this estate is in the heirs of the Walmsleys.

Hunibornes are lands probably so named from the former possessors, and inclosed by the Huniborne family, often spoken of in old writings. They were afterwards the property of ----- Barnes; next of Simon Wigan, from whom they came to Joseph Wadams, gent. of Nether Stonall.

Rake-

Rakemoors are rough pieces, or leafows, purchase d Jackson, of Chesterfield, lying between that village and Lynne; they were purchafed, in 1731, by Richard Steel, Thomas Barfoot, John Lea, Francis Rawlins, and others, with money belonging to Stonall and Lynn, for the use of the poor of these two hamlets.

Bullmoors are a confiderable quantity of land lying between Hill Town, Lynne, and Chesterfield, given to the poor of the whole parish, described in one of the church tables, as aforefaid.

Brandreth's pieces, in the diftrict of Lynne, were the estate of Francis Erpe, in the reign of king Charles I. and went with those fold to the honourable and reverend Richard Hill, now (1773) in Noel Hill, of Terne, esq.

H I L L T O W N.

Hilton is fo denominated from its fiteuation on a rifing ground, in the road leading from Walfall to Wall. Though called a town, it in no degree deferves the term; yet it feemed not improper to take notice of it, as the inhabitants of the Shenstone fide of it lay claim to the donation of William Smyth, of London, to put out poor boys apprentice in their turn, and have enjoyed it. They call themselves, indeed, a part of Upper Stonall

Stonall hamlet, but with what justice appears not. The village lies on Cannoc wood, above the Crane brook, which is named in Lynne; I should therefore suppose it a part of Lynne, or of Chesterfield, near which it is situated, at the distance of half a mile. Three or four mean families make up the whole belonging to Shenstone, and these (if I mistake not) are chiefly tenants to John Dolphyn, of the Mofs, esq. Thomas Salt, of Hilton, in the reigns of George I. and George II. had a messuage, and Sandwell pieces, Welle pieces, or Wall lands, lands in Lynne, Carters-field, Cocks-piece, a messuage in the Well-piece, and an estate at Blythbury; his issue were Thomas, -----, wife of John Price, of Drakelowe, Derbyshire; and Mary, wife of Thomas Dickenfon, of Nether Stonall. Thomas had issue John, who lived some time at Blithbury, on his own estate; John left Thomas Salt, of London; and Samuel, late of Dudley. The Hilton and Lynne estates are fold.

C H E S T E R F I E L D.

Chesterfield is about two miles in circuit, reckoning the lands appertaining to it, being bounded by Shenstone village, the Ashcrofts, and part of Lynne lane, Lynne coppice, Crane brooke, Hilton (a manor purchased by the late Curfitor ----- Smith, lord of the manor of Shenstone), Wall, part of the
great

great road leading thence to Swynfen, and the road leading from Shenstone by Pindle-fields to Lichfield and Swynfen, though the village extends itself not more than a quarter of a mile, and has not more than ten families, on the way towards Lynne, the Ashcrofts, and Shenstone village, and lying upon the river sometimes named of the township, and frequently of the Bourne.

Chesterfield has an obvious derivation from the Roman *Castrum*, from the Saxon *Ceaſter*, and the old British *Caer*, of which we have many instances through the kingdom, and field. Hence we may collect that this place, probably to Shenstone church hill, was the line of encampment for the Roman forces generally stationed at Wall, close to it.

I should suppose that Chesterfield, or Campfield, was formerly a place of some consideration, and a manor separate from Shenstone, to which it is now annexed. It is mentioned as early as king Richard I. as a village, situate on the bank of the river Tame, which points out the antiquity of the place; as to its having inhabitants in king Richard the First's time, but as to lying on the Tame, it is a mistake; for, it lies on the Hamerwick water, at this village, bearing different names as afore-said; the said water, indeed, after a course of several miles, runs into the Tame.

In that reign a family of note, called *Cumberford*, owned this township, and Alan de Cumberford was lord of the manor, called, by Holinshed, Chesterforde. There was Alan de Cumberford in Henry the First's time. Alan de Cumberford (t. William I. or William II.) had issue Alan (t. Henry I.) of Wiggington, near Tamworth, and Chesterfield in Scertestan, or Shenstone; his sons were Roger and Richard; the latter had issue three daughters; 1. Agnes, wife of J. Shepey; 2. Anne, wife of
Alan

Alan Quillette, and Sybil of Richard Hopwas. I find another account says, there was an elder sister Margery, wife of Radulph Bonenghall or Bolehall, who had Richard, father of John, who had issue Alice, wife of John King, that died issueless. Richard Hopewas and Sybil had issue William, of whom John, father of William, who had Anne, heir to part of the Cumberland estates; she carried them to the Edensors, of which line was Thomas (1583), of Cumberland, who married Dorothy, daughter of Humphry Comberford, of that place, and had Christopher Ednesor, and others.

Ednesor's family arms were, Argent, 3 horse-shoes, Sable, between a fess, Gules.

Roger Cumberland, son of Alan, had a son William, who, by Alice his wife, had John that died without issue, and Richard, who, by Agnes his wife, had John, lord of Cumberland, and other estates, who, by Joan his wife, had William, father of John, to whom he married his ward Joan, daughter and heir of John Parles (in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV.), which Joan was a great heiress, lady of the manors of Shittle Hanger and Handsworth, Staffordshire, and others. They had issue Thomas, who, by Dorothy, daughter of Robert Fitzherbert, had issue Margaret, wife of William Stanley, and Humphry, whose wife was Dorothy, second daughter and coheir to John de Beaumont, lord of the manor of Wednesbury (of the blood royal of England and France), son of Henry, by Eleanor, daughter of John Sutton baron Dudley, of Dudley castle. Humphry had issue Thomas, Humphry, Mary, wife of Walter Harcourt, and Isabel of Gervase Rolleston; she died without issue. Thomas, lord of Cumberland and Wednesbury, by Dorothy, daughter of William Wyrley, had issue William, Edward, and Elizabeth, wife of William Stamford, esq. William married,

1. -----, relict of ----- Spencer, of Ratcliffe near London, but had no child by her; 2. Mary, daughter of William Skeffington, of Fisherwick, esq. by whom he had Humphry, Thomas, John, William, Francis, Richard, John, Henry, Anne, and Mary, wife of W. Holte, of Aston, ancestor to Sir Charles Holte, baronet, 1773. Thomas, father of William and Edward, died in the 40th year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, seised of the manors of Wiggington, Cumberland, and Wednesbury; also of divers lands in Hopwayes, Cotton, Tamworth, and Tameborne. Humphry, son of William Cumberland, married Mary, daughter of Robert Stamford, of Perry hall, esq. and had issue Humphry Thomas, Robert, William, Anne, Joan, and Dorothy.

I meet with a colonel Cumberland, of Cumberland, in the civil war; with William, who bought, in the reign of Charles I. part of Mancester, Warwickshire, of George Lewis, esq. also with William, who, in the 13th year of the reign of James I. purchased Bole-hall of William Anson, esq. To these I add, that Thomas Fitz Robert granted to Alan de Cumberland a virgate and half of land, which was Roger de Wynton's (I suppose in the reign of king Henry I.), to be holden of him and his heirs, by the service of a pound of pepper yearly, as evidenced by Robert Fitz Geoffry, Roger de Puignat, Robert, the chaplain, William Hales, Roger de Hardford, Godfrey de Brierley, a priest, and Nicolas de Lichfield; all knights. The deed is not dated.

Cumberfote bore two coats, 1. Gules, a talbot Argent.

2. Gules, on a cross engrailed, Or, 5 roses of the first.

We have given a genealogy of the family, but the township and manor of Chesterfield was alienated in a few generations. I have seen an original deed in the hands of the late Walter viscount Chetwynd, at Ingestre, secured by Walter, a noted antiquary,

tiquary, of this family, in which it is remarked, that in the reign of Edward II. or III. lived Sir William Bagot, of Hyde, and Sir Ralph, his brother, one of which owned this hamlet and manor of Chesterfield, at that time named in the parish of Shenstone, and sold it to Sir Robert de Grendon, of whom I intend to speak hereafter.

Two copies of deeds in my hands speak of Geoffry Fitz Walter de Cestrefield, granting lands to Nicolas Fitz Robert Goodwyn, of Alreshaw (Aldershaw, about half a mile off). And that Geoffry Lyly de Cestrefield granted and confirmed to Simon, son of William de Allershall, the lands he held of him, dated 1336, in the 9th year of the reign of king Edward III. The first hath no date.

In the centre of the village stands a large old mansion, which, as far as I can learn, hath always been looked upon as the principal one. It is in the style of structures not later than queen Elizabeth's days, low, full of timber, and standing on a large foundation, with a court or garden to the road. This mansion was long the residence of the *Allens*, of whom we know little with any degree of certainty. Samuel Allen, esq. and Joseph Whittington, formerly possessed an estate in Over Stonall, in the tenure of George Hawe, which had been in the Stevensons, and aforetime in the name of the Smyths, but we cannot say he was of that line.

William Allen, in the reign of Henry VIII. had issue William, of this place, who died in 1596, leaving a son John, who had Richard, of Lynne. Afterwards we observe the name in Fotherley, Wood-end, and Little Hay. James Allen, gent. paid to the royal aid in 1667, and then resided at Chesterfield.

Next we find this mansion and estate in the *Jannocks* and the *Hammonds*, of which name we meet with Vincent Ham-

mond, in the reign of king William III. married, in 1702, to Ann Sclater, and with Thomas Hammond of Edjial hall, near Lichfield, 1705; the heirs of which Thomas I take to be Fet-riplace Notte, esq. high steward of Lichfield, and two ----- Hammonds, one wife of ----- Adey, of Lichfield, deceased, the other of Francis Cobbe, esq. It was afterwards in the Palmers, at present in the Smyths. This purchaser was brother of the late Sir George Smyth, baronet, who married -----, daughter of the reverend ----- Vyse, rector of St. Philips in Birmingham, and prebendary of Lichfield; which person left it to his daughter, sister of Abel Smyth, of Nottingham, gent. This was lately in the tenure of Benjamin Dorrington, now in his widow, and sons, Joseph and Thomas Dorrington.

Higher in the village towards Wall stands another mansion, more modern, built of brick, which hath for some generations, with a considerable estate belonging to it, been in the name of the *Jacksons*, before the reign of Elizabeth.

The first mentioned here is John (son of John), brother to Richard, of London, who had issue Henry (1579), Margery, and others. Richard was a barrister of Clement's Inn, Middlesex. Amongst other purchases made here was that (in the 41st year of the reign of queen Elizabeth) of the Rakemoors, jointly with William Quintyn, lying near Chesterfield and Lynne, of Edward Stanley, of Tonge, Salop, esq. These and other lands came to the family of John Jackson. We may therefore conclude, that this Richard was the chief means of establishing this family here. Anne, a daughter of John, was married to William Quintyn, which will in some degree account for their jointly purchasing of Edward Stanley. Next I find Edward Jackson (1599), who had issue John, William, Henry, whom I look
upon

upon to have been remarked in the family by the title of *Captain* (and which hath generally been applied to the eldest of his family to this day); Anne, and Francis. William, of Chesterfield, had issue John, Thomas, and others. Captain Henry joined the parliament party in the troubles, and, February 8, 1643, had a troop given him, and soon after raised another troop of 80 horse, which, with their arms and furniture, were valued at 850*l.* for which he was allowed 8 *per cent.* and the public faith for the money, signed May 12. Simon Rugeley, H. Stone, Ph. Jackson. The weekly contributions of Walsal Borough and Foreign, Barre, Aldrich, and Bentley, were assigned to him. He was so active for the cause, that Purton, Trescot, Patteshull, Wrottesley, Codhal, and Penford, which had been assigned for the pay of captain Gough's men (who was absent, and had but a few men), were given to him, who was to provide for, and be assisted by Gough's men; also the following towns, with their weekly pay, exacted for the army, *viz.* Bilstone and Bradley, 3*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* Clent 4*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* Bobington 3*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* Bromel 1*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* Amblecote 1*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* Aredley 5*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* Sedgely 6*l.* 10*s.* Bushbury 4*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* Moseley 1*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* Swinford Regis 5*l.* 4*s.* Hymnley 1*l.* 6*s.* Rowle 5*l.* 4*s.* Kynver 6*l.* 10*s.* Enville 6*l.* 10*s.* Perton and Trescot 2*l.* 12*s.* Patteshal 2*l.* 12*s.* Wrottesley 2*l.* 5*s.* Codhal 2*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* Penford 1*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* Woker 1*l.* 6*s.* Total 70*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*; rated the lower, because some of the places were in the enemies' quarters. He lived also upon free quarter on the estate of captain Robert Grosvenor, in Bushbury, and Richard Bryans; these circumstances, to which we could add many more, shew the activity of captain Henry Jackson. William aforesaid, was living in 1672, when Mary his wife died. John, his son, died in 1682, leaving Henry, John, Edward, and other children. Henry married Dorothy Reynolds,

Reynolds, and, as I think, settled elsewhere; Edward had also issue. John the elder, as he is called, died at Chesterfield in 1711, leaving John, who, by Esther his wife, had John, &c. born in 1715. John, the father, in 1731 sold lands called the Rake-moors, to the inhabitants of Lyndon and Stonall, for the use of the poor of those hamlets, for whom were trustees Thomas Barfoot, John Lea, Joseph Wyatt, Richard Steele, and others. By an agreement then made, the purchased land was to pay one halfpenny levy out of the Chesterfield estate, and 3l. was allowed John Jackson, towards passing the fine for farther security. The same John sold land called the Boffes, and a coppice near Lynne, to the late John Dolphyn, esq. This John was son of John, son of another John who came out of Essex, and claimed the Chesterfield estate, as heir at law, and then married Joan, daughter of William Turner, of Hill, as the family give account. John Jackson died at Chesterfield in 1664, leaving several sons and daughters. The eldest son, supposing himself barred of his paternal inheritance by his father's will, put the business into the Court of Chancery, which hath not yet (1773) decided the said right, nor seems likely to do it till the greatest part is spent, and a family deprived of an estate that greatly wants it. In this family are certain fields called the Watages, or Hayes, Upper and Nether; also lands formerly the property of ----- Tomkys.

We add, that William Jackson, in the reign of James I. owned lands in Lynne, and Stonall, but cannot affirm he was of this line; Edward Jackson was also, in the 13th year of the reign of king Charles I. witness to the enfranchising of an estate to Margaret Thornton, of Fotherley, by William Fryth, and Thomas Moreton, esqrs. I find too, that John Jackson, of Chesterfield, paid five shillings and ten-pence to the assessment for

for the aid of king Charles II. in 1667; and that John Jackson, of this village, paid to the poll-tax in 1692, for himself and family.

A family named *Bull* had lands here, but they passed soon to the Jackson's; in 1692 I find two named Richard Bull, who paid the poll-tax for themselves and families. The Poors Bulmoors were probably their estate.

The name of *Milner* is ancient in this place, and is the first that occurs in the register, is Thomas, who had a child baptized March 6, 1579; next Edward Milner, 1599; Nicolas, and Humphry, who died in 1610. Stephen was living here in the reigns of queen Elizabeth and king James I. They had lands in Stonall, Chesterfield, and Lynne, in which last hamlet John Best purchased a part of them. The estates are alienated, but there yet remains a branch of the family at the Boffes.

Banke's moors, formerly in a family of the name at Upper Stonall, but, as we have observed, now in Joseph Wadams.

The *Smyths*, of this hamlet, in the reigns of William III. and queen Anne, had an estate here, part of which was Mob Hay meadows; afterwards in the Duttons, of whom we mean to speak elsewhere, purchased since by Ann Burnes, gentlewoman.

Boar moors were in the Duttons, purchased by them of the Erpes, and went as the Mob Hays.

Simon Byddulph, of Elmehurst hall, near Lichfield, possessed two or more messuages here in the reigns of queen Elizabeth and James I.; Michael Byddulph, his son, sold these, with other estates, Sept. 20, 1636, to John Jordan, of Aldrich, gent. and John Hawkes, of Sheffield, Staffordshire. Witnessed by Nicolas Potte, Thomas Worley, Theophilus Byddulph, and others; as then held by William Clarke, and William Bowring, which estates John Jordan and John Hawkes passed away in 1641 to

Alice Robyns, of Lichfield, being then named Barn woods, with fields and meadows, near the two messuages, and twenty-one acres elsewhere in this village; William Bowring and William Clarke, in 1667, paid to the assessment for the royal aid.

A family of the *Lanes* had property here. Of this family, as I conjecture, was William Lane, who married Elizabeth Stanley in 1585. Edward Lane, clerk, had lands here and at Foothertley, in 1647. John, in 1667, paid to the royal aid for his estate in Chesterfield, though his residence was then at Sutton-Colefield. John (probably his son), was, in 1672, living here, and an evidence to the purchase of lands by John Thickbrome, of Little Hay, of the lords of the manor. He had issue Elizabeth, born 1682, and next year died Mary his wife. As I find no notice of him in the list that paid the poll-tax in the reign of William III. I conjecture he was dead before that time, and, if any of the name and family remained to that date, they were removed from this place.

Michael Clerke Tilly, about the reign of William III. had an estate here, and by Anne, daughter of John Brandreth, esq. had issue Michael, of this village, and, as I suppose, Margaret, wife of Job Serjeant; part of the lands belonging to the Tillys were purchased of two families named Mathews and Quintyns.

William Walton had possessions at Chesterfield about the reign of James I, or Charles I. These came to the Jeffsons, a family that lived near that time at Lichfield; beforetime at Harehouse, a little distance from that city, and acquired a fortune chiefly by farming and purchasing timber. In this name were estates called Pates land, and Maple Hayes in Pipe, besides many others in Shenstone and Chesterfield. The first named is about 1664. He had a son, father of William, who had issue
William

William Jeston, barrister at law, and a considerable person. Part of his acquisitions went to his sister's son Phineas, son of Phineas Hufsey, of Wyrley and Brewood hall; esq. but what he owned in this village passed to the Smyths, whose ancestor was Richard Smyth, of this place (1667), and was a few years since in the possession of James Smyth, and the tenure of Jonathan Brooks.

In 1745 were the several open fields in this district divided to the several proprietors, and enclosed. These were chiefly Abel Smyth, and John Dolphyn, esqrs. John Jackson, Richard Greenfield (yet living), Benjamin Derrington (in the family still), Edward Jackson, of Wall; the fields were named Church-field, Chesterfield crofts, Smyths flats, the Balk, Common and Meadow pieces, Great-field, Little Church-field, and Horsely-fields, all which, being well cultivated and improved, are become fruitful.

The tythes of this hamlet were sold, by Michael Brandreth, of Shenstone Hall, esq. to John Porter, attorney at law, father of Sheldon Porter, lately deceased.

W A L L.

The Roman name given to this place seems to be *Vallum*; hence the Saxons called it *Wall*, others *Etocetum*, and *Walllega*, but whatever the true name was (for some have given it

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the term * *Mandueffedum* or Manceter, (though falsely,) it is very clear that it was a Roman station at the time of their laying out and forming the famous way, now remaining, and called the Watling-street. One account says, that two roads were carried on from the *Acemancester* † and the street called *Aceman-street* (so named from the sick persons or people with aches and distempers that travelled that way for a cure) to *Rata* ‡, and *Mandueffedum*, i. e. the village called the Wall, in Staffordshire. This we observed was a mistake, and may farther appear when we come to treat of the Roman roads that are carried through Wall §. We have curious accounts of it, as follow :

Wall, now a small village, but anciently the *Etocetum*, which Antoninus in his Itinerary makes the next station to *Mandueffedum* or Manceter. Mr. Camden for some time was of opinion that Uttoxeter was the place; but, having surveyed Watling-street very accurately, he found he was mistaken, and ingenuously confesseth it; in conclusion he positively determined this to be the place. His reasons for it are, that the distance between *Mandueffedum* (i. e. *Man* British for *exiguum* little, and *Cestre*, *Castrum*, camp), and *Etocetum* exactly answers, and that he met with the ruins of an old city near the road scarce a mile from Lichfield, which the inhabitants also believe and aver. The name of it at this day is Wall, from the remains of certain walls there which encompass two acres of land retaining the name of the Castle croft, as if one should say the field of the Castle.

* History of Oxfordshire.

† Bath. Urbs ægrotorum hominum.

‡ Leicester.

§ See the Appendix.

Near this stood another antient city on the other side of the way, which was demolished before the time of William the Conqueror, as the inhabitants from the same tradition tell us, and withal shew the situation of it; guessing it to be so from the great foundation, which seems the more probable from the abundance of rubbish lying about it, and several coins of Roman emperors, which they produce; these being always reckoned the most infallible proofs of antiquity.

Dr. Gibson adds, "Upon the Roman way near Lichfield, we find a village called Wall, which is supposed to have taken that name from the fragments of an old wall upon the North side of Watling-street; Mr. Camden rightly supposes it to be the *Eboracum* of Antoninus, and the two antient pavements wherein there appear Roman bricks, with the remains of antiquity discovered at Chesterfield on the other side of the way put it beyond all dispute." Mr. Camden thinks the coins an infallible proof of its antiquity, and so much the rather, because the Basilical street, (otherwise called the prætorian, sometimes consular and military way,) called Watling-street, continues hence very fair and plain, and almost without breach, till it is crossed and interrupted by the river Penk, which hath a stone bridge built over it at *Pennocrucium*, or Penkridge, and stands at the same distance that Antoninus hath fixed.

Another author * says, "A wall one mile and half S. S. W. of Lichfield, just at the distance Antoninus sets between it and *Mandueffedum*, or Manceter, there remains in the lane on the North side of the street-way some small fragments of a wall, which, it is supposed, gave the present name to the village; and in the corn-field now termed the Butts, between the village

* Dr. Plott.

and some small cottages on the brook below, I was shewn two pavements, one above the other, at least four feet. The uppermost, which lay within eighteen inches of the surface, being made for the most part of lime and rubble stone, and the lowermost of pebbles and gravel knitted together with a very hard cement, about four inches thick, laid upon a foundation of Roman brick, and under them boulder stone of a foot thick more. Above the uppermost of these they often meet with Roman money, whereof I was shewn three pieces, of Nero, Domitian, and another emperor, so eaten with rust as not to be certainly distinguished.

Of this fort or wall little remains, except a part of the foundation, the rest having been at different times carried away for repairs of building, or turned up and removed with some expectation of finding money and in part to level and cultivate the ground it stood upon. This, and some old walls raised with a cement yet subsisting, which form the garden of Thomas Jackson, gent. are all of the two cities that time hath spared, begun or built, probably, by Julius Agricola, the Roman lieutenant in Britain under Vespasian the emperor, in whose time the Britains made great improvements, becoming more civilized;" expressed by historians * in the following terms :

" Whereas the Britons, hitherto harrassed with oppression and wars, had little leisure or will to apply themselves to things which accompany peace, and are the ornaments of civil and settled societies ; and therefore were prone on every occasion to revolt and stir ; to induce them by pleasures to quietness and rest, he exhorted them in private, and helped them in public, to build temples, houses, places of assembly, and common resort ;

* Speed.

and

and likewise provided, that the sons of their nobles should be instructed in the arts and sciences, commending the industry and preferring the wits of the Britons before the students of France, as being now grown curious to attain the eloquence of the Roman gentry, yea, even the gown, the habit of peace and peaceable arts, and to delight in gorgeous buildings, banquets, and baths." Now one can hardly suppose a Roman governor, of such policy, so well approved of by the natives, as is elsewhere described, and who had such opportunity of carrying on great works, would neglect to form roads through the bogs, woods, and fastnesses, with which this land abounded, for the better security of travellers, as well as for the farther establishment of the Roman dominion here. Another reason also offers, from his conquests of North Britain, part of Wales, and the Isle of Anglesey, why the roads should be commodious for the marching of armies, and why mansions or stations should be erected at proper distances: such are supposed to be Manceter, Wall, Penkridge, Stretton, and others in this neighbourhood. I * the rather think these works were at this time effected, because it is expressed, that the Northern inhabitants of this island, *more at liberty, and emboldened by their bogs and rocks inaccessible*, set themselves in a few years after to withstand their wrongs, to whom also many others joined their affections, whereupon some bickering ensued with loss and blood. After they were crushed by Hadrian, it is added, "the Southern Britons seemed not greatly to contend, but patiently bore the yoke of subjection, which time and custom had made less painful, the rather for that they saw themselves to stand in need of the Romans help against the inroads of their own countrymen, whose cruelty was

* Speed.

now as much feared as in former times the invasion of strangers. Whereupon they conformed themselves more willingly to the Roman laws, both in martial and civil affairs." Or, perhaps, these works were to better effect carried on by Severus the emperor, who, as well as Hadrian, did great things in this island, in the way we have related, and resided at York; on which it is observed, that the stations of the Roman colonies were the seed plots of all our cities and principal towns.

Another writer says*, that Julius Agricola was not wholly taken up by war, but carefully informed himself in whatever related to the government of this province, and the most proper methods to keep the subjects in obedience; he also redressed several abuses, which had been introduced by the greediness or negligence of preceding governors. In this second campaign, after making some acquisitions, he observed, that the Romans commonly lost in the winter what they had subdued in the summer, and that this was owing to their not daring to winter in those countries, as being too much exposed; he therefore resolved (that this might be prevented for the future) to erect forts in the most convenient places; where keeping garrisons in the winter, they would always be in readiness to repel the enemy. As he perfectly well understood this branch of the art military, the forts were so advantageously situated, and built in such a manner, that the Romans were under no necessity of quitting, and the enemies could never master them.

Ulpus Trajanus crushed the revolted Britons, appointed the municipal laws at sessions and assizes, ordered the rods and axes to be presented to the backs and necks of the common people, *and enlarged the Roman roads here* †.

* Rapin.

† Leigh's Natural History.

Theodosius,

Theodosius, being sent hither by Valentinian the emperor (who reigned anno Christi 364), settled Britain in quiet, *re-edified the cities, repaired the garrison castles*, fortifying the frontiers with *standing watches* and *strong forefences*, or, as Rapin has it, "secured and re-established London, rebuilt the fortifications and castles which had been ruined, and put them in a condition to check any future invasions from the Northern people."

These authorities quoted shew sufficiently, that such forts as we are speaking of were erected by Julius Agricola, and probably this named Wall among the rest, as being a pretorian or consular road. The reader, however, is left to his own sentiments, whether Severus, Hadrian, Trajan, or Theodosius, effected these matters. The following times were so full of confusion, and the Roman empire so harrassed on every side, that it seems unlikely such works were erected, and such noble ways laid out and formed by the Romans, afterwards in Britain.

Tradition and history both say, and this confirmed by the inhabitants, that Wall had its chapel, situate on the ground leading to Chesterfield, and in this parish of Shenstone; probably inclining to ruin after its lands were taken at the Dissolution under king Henry VIII. Such chapel was convenient for the people of Wall, Chesterfield, and Alderthaw. I have before mentioned the church lands in Chesterfield; and, no doubt, more was appropriated to it in the other hamlets, swallowed up by the crown, and the avarice of greedy courtiers; and still, like other ecclesiastical property, absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the clergy, in the hands of laymen. Antiquaries and others also observe, that in more antient times here was a temple, consecrated, no doubt, to the Roman deities, and afterwards a church, pretending also to point out where it stood*.

* Speed.

Robert de Wall, of this village, was witness to a grant of Thomas Cementarius (Mason) passing a messuage and land here to Robert Fitz Godwyn, of Alrefage (Aldershaw) *. This is not dated.

Roger de Mora del Wall evidenced another deed of Galfridus Fitz Walter de Chesterfield, passing lands to Nicolas Fitz Robert Fitz Godwyn de Alrefaw. This also is without date.

Hugh de la Wall, in 1311, witnessed the grant of Adam de la Lynde, of property to his son; and, in 1315 (8 Edward II.) to John de la Lynde's grants of lands to Adam de la Lynde. Radulph de Wall witnessed a deed of Nicolas de Lydiart, passing estates to John, son of Edmund de Lynde, dated 11 Edward III. 1338. Randolph de la Wall, witness (1340) to the grant of W. de Seckerton of lands to Hugh, son of William Nichols, in Stonall; and the same year, 1340, to the grant of Maud de Walters, of land in Eccleshall (Aldershaw), to Simon, son of William Nichols.

Elena, lady of Wall, Adam, son of Simon de Wall, William and John Rygbye, William Rygbye, junior, William Tibbins, of Wall, had right to pasture, and the common in Allershawle, as proved May 7, in the 43d year of the reign of Edward III. at Westminster †.

Adam Thompson del Wall, in the 46th year of the reign of Edward III. witnessed a grant of Robert Draycott, of Lichfield, conveying lands to John Thomenhorne.

Edward Timneson de la Walle witnessed a grant of lands from Henry de la Lynde to Adam de Redehull and John de Thomenhorne, dated 1374.

* In the possession of Anne Burnes, of Alreshaw, widow.

† Deed in my possession.

The tythes of this hamlet are in three proprietors; the right honourable Arthur earl of Donegal, of Filherwick; — Swynfen, of Swynfen; and the heirs of John Porter, of Lichfield. That part of the tythes that lies in Shenstone parish, with those of Chesterfield, are in the last named heirs. John Porter, attorney at law, of Lichfield, purchased these, as I think, of Michael Brandreth, esq. By a daughter of — Sheldon, gent. a lady of good fortune, if not an heiress, he had issue Sheldon Porter, esq. possessor of estates in Wall, Pipe, Lichfield, Chesterfield, West Bromwich, and elsewhere, who died unmarried, in 1766, at Wall, where he had erected an handsome mansion on the foundation of an ancient family house in the name of Quintyn, or St. Quintyn. The possessors of Sheldon Porter's estates are two sisters, coheirs; Sarah, widow of Edward Jackson, of Wall, gent. and Penelope, yet unmarried; both whose residence is at Lichfield.

The manor of Wall is divided, as the hamlet itself is, by the Watling-street, which passes through the middle of it. That part of it that is in Shenstone parish, and lies towards Chesterfield, belongs to William Tenant, esq. lord of the manor of Shenstone; the other side of Wall, on the Watling-street, is in the parish of St. Michael, in the city of Lichfield.

The family of the *Lytteltons*, of Pillaton hall, Staffordshire, possessed lands in the reign of Edward VI. Sir Edward Lyttelton, knight, owned them. Part of these lands passed afterwards to the name of Dutton, resident in Wall; another portion of them to — Burnes of Lichfield, gent. Dutton's part lately passed to the family of Burnes, by purchase, as I think, in the year 1769.

A fourth part of the manor of Wall, and other estates therein, were in the name of Popham. Sir John Popham, a person me-

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morable

morable for his noble descent, strict justice, and unwearied diligence, as lord chief justice of the King's Bench, possessed them in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. and had his seats at Littlecote, Wiltshire, and Wellington, Somersetshire. John Popham, esq. of Littlecote, in the reigns of James I. and Charles I. sold the said fourth part of the manor of Wall, lands lying in Wall, Shenstone, Pipe, Hamerwich, Aldershaw, and Lichfield, Staffordshire, to Francis * Erpe, gent. Sir Francis Popham, of Littlecote, had a daughter Lætitia, wife of Sir Edward Seymour, the fourth baronet of that family, whose son, Sir Edward, fifth baronet, also married Lætitia, only daughter of Sir Francis Popham, of Littlecote, knight of the Bath. Alexander Popham, in the reign of queen Anne, married Anne, daughter of Ralph duke of Montague, and had issue an only daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Richard Montague viscount Hinchinbroke, mother by him of John earl of Sandwich.

Quintyn, or *St. Quintyn*, is a name and family of note for antiquity and possessions in Wall, Lichfield, and Longden; but the first I meet with settled in Wall is William Quintyn, derived of French lineage that took their name from St. Quintyn, a town in Piccardy, and most likely settled in this nation in the reign of William I. William Quintyn, of Wall, son of William, who died in 1596, at Wall, married Anne (daughter, as I think, of John), Jackson, in 1597. Dorothy Quintyn was married that year to Richard Sylvester, of Over Stonall, and had Richard, born 1599. Richard Quintyn, son of William, was witness to the sale of lands by Richard Sylvester to Rowland Rydding, in the 13th year of the reign of James I. In 1631 lived John Quintyn of Wall, gent. who, in 1644-5, was obliged

* See Lynne.

to pay to Robert Tuthill, governor of Rushall house, 20l. immediately, besides his weekly contribution, for the use of that parliamentary garrison. In 1647 William Quintyn, of Derby, Thomas Orme, of Ashborne in the Peak, and Elizabeth his wife, sold to John Quinton, of Wall, a messuage, barns, orchard, garden, curtilage, in Wall; a close called Crof, a green, land named Round hills, seven acres of arable land in Wall, and Rakemoor meadow in Shenstone parish, then in the tenure of the said John; witnessed by Richard Gladwyn, John Nevil, W. Leyton, Thomas Mather, and William Quinton, of Wall; John Quintyn died in 1658, possessed of considerable estates in Lichfield, Hamerwick, Shenstone, Wall, and elsewhere, leaving issue William, John, and Thomas, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Webbe, Mary, and Anne. This John Quintyn made, besides what is abovesaid, several purchases, some tenements of John Smyth, of Lichfield; the Muckleys in Wall, of William Bull, with a burgage in Geeles-lane, Lichfield; land in Hamerwick of Nicolas Smallwood; and in Lichfield of Thomas Martyn. To the said John Quintyn's will, dated August 16, 1658, are witnesses Thomas Nevil, Richard Gladwyn, and Sarah Wolverstan. Eleanor, his widow, was living in 1664.

William Quintyn, as appears by an agreement made in his life-time, was contracted to Alice, daughter of Thomas Dutton, of Wall, gent. who was to pay her 300l. as her present fortune, and I suppose the marriage was consummated. This Thomas Dutton is in the said contract named his cousin William, died in 1698-9, leaving John and Thomas, if no other children.

Thomas Quintyn, of Freeford, brother, as I conjecture, of John father of William, died in 1704. Another Thomas died in 1706, at Wall. Elizabeth Quintyn, widow, died there in

1711, as did Sarah Quintyn; also Thomas, in 1713, possessed of lands in Chesterfield and Wall. John, eldest son of William, was noted for a well-bred gentleman, and was then the head of this family, with an estate of 200l. yearly, which he chiefly farmed himself; dying unmarried, Thomas, his brother, became his principal heir, who owned Leyfields, and other lands near Swynfen, but afterwards proved a waster; in a few years his estates were in mortgage to — Turton, esq. of Hargrave, and afterwards were sold to John Porter of Lichfield, attorney at law, whose son, Sheldon Porter, in the present reign, erected a handsome mansion on the spot where stood the ancient family house of the Quintyns. Thomas Quintyn had issue three daughters, Elizabeth, who died young; Anne, wife of — Jackson, goldsmith, at Lichfield, who had issue one daughter, lately living; and Alicia, wife of James Garlick, of Stourbridge, surgeon, afterwards in that capacity in the army or navy, and a chief surgeon of the hospital at Woolwich or Sheerness, who died a few years since, without issue; she was living in 1773.

Leyfields abovesaid, near Swynfen, were sold by Thomas Quintyn to — Capper, of Birmingham.

Lands named Rosthall's, and part of the Rakemoors, passed from Thomas Quintyn, to the Jacksons of Wall.

James Garlick abovesaid had in his possession several coins of Allectus, who assumed the purple and title of emperor A. D. 294, and, if I remember right, of Carausius, his predecessor in this island; he also shewed me many of the emperor Constantine, and others found in Wall.

Facing the streetway from Chesterfield towards Aldershaw, in the way to Lichfield, stands an ancient mansion of brick, with a court and wall in the front of the yard, and barns, seemingly erected in the reigns of king Charles II. or king William III.

in the family and heirs of the Duttons till of late, though in the village of Wall; it is in St. Michael's parish, Lichfield.

These *Duttons* had their original from a good family of the name, well known and esteemed in Cheshire, and in Wall and its neighbourhood, possessed about 200l. yearly, part of which Thomas Dutton in the reign of George I. or George II. left to Thomas Stanley, of Edinghall, gent. his nephew, whose family, seated sometimes there, and at Thornes, yet enjoys it.

How long the Duttons have resided at Wall I have not learnt, but find Thomas Dutton, of this place, in the reigns of king Charles I. and king Charles II. Ann Dutton died here in 1687. Thomas, their son, died here in 1689, and Mary, his widow, in 1694; they left Thomas, whose wife, Margaret, died in 1707. This Thomas seems to be the person who made Thomas Stanley his chief heir, as before said; but as the family lived in another parish, I could gather little more with certainty about it. The mansion and estate remaining to several heirs, was, in 1769, sold to Anne Burnes, relict of Richard Burnes, of Aldershaw, esq. for the use of John Burnes Floyer, their son, a minor of seventeen years of age, which Anne has since fallen and disposed of a quantity of excellent timber that grew upon it.

About the center of Wall, facing the streetway, and in the view directly towards Shenstone church, at two miles distance, is an old habitation of the Jacksons, a family branched out of those settled at Chesterfield, probably in the reigns of Elizabeth or king James I. of whose line seems to have been the wife of William Quintyn, 1597, but it is scarcely possible to distinguish the several families, there being at least three at Wall and Chesterfield. The habitation aforesaid hath generally been in settlement of the eldest son's wife, who, on the death of her husband, retired

retired hither, but it is now nearly decayed; the barns, stables, court, and walled gardens are yet in being, but are in ruins, except the barns, that are kept up as conveniencies; at the distance of two stones cast behind these, and upon a delightful eminence, is the family mansion, to which considerable additions were made by Edward Jackson, the last possessor. This branch possesses a tolerable good estate, which was much more considerable, but hath been injured by settlements, mortgages, and sale of much land in consequence, by no means the fault of the present owner. Of this family was Henry, who left issue William and John, both named of Wall in 1631. William, as I think, left Henry, Elizabeth, and others. Henry, in 1664, had issue Henry, living in 1685, who married Dorothy, daughter of — Reynolds (at the same time lived in this place Henry, son of Edward Jackson), who had issue Edward and Henry (1705). Henry, their father, in 1688, Alexander Ward, of Shenstone park; Francis Wheeley, of Aldrich; John Bankes, of Over Stonall; Thurstan Southern, of Elmhurst, &c. joined in levying a fine for securing a messuage, a cottage and 110 acres of land in Ogle Hay; with whom also James Adams levied a fine for his Birches pieces. Henry Jackson married Anne, daughter of John Quintyn, of Wall and Longdon, or Gorstymoor green, in that parish, with whom, as a daughter and coheir of that family, he had the farm called Mather's, in Wall, in the tenure of Thomas Mathers; a farm called Nevil's, in Chesterfield; and the estate of John Quintyn aforesaid, at Gorstymoor green, and other lands. They had issue Edward, Thomas, Henry, a tradesman in Birmingham, yet living, and unmarried, Elizabeth, Sarah, Anne, who died young, and Maria, all living.

Edward,

Edward, the eldest son, married Sarah, daughter of John, and sister of Sheldon Porter, late of Wall, but by her, who resides at Lichfield, had no child. He is dead.

Thomas, the second son, was settled in the iron trade at Dudley, and upon the decease of Edward his brother, about 1764, removed to Wall; he sold the estate at Longdon to Richard Bayley, of Lichfield; and another called the Wattages to John Dolphyn, esq. which is now in the tenure of John Blackmore, of Shenstone, by —, daughter of — Nicklyn, of Dudley, gent. This Thomas Jackson hath issue Thomas, master of the Grammar school at Dudley, Henry, who married — daughter of Thomas Adcock, of Lyndon, and hath issue Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Mallett, of Swynfen, and Anne, of — Higgenfon, of Wall.

In this village, adjoining to the habitation of Thomas Jackson, is a farm house and land belonging of old time to the corporation of Lichfield, for the use of a fraternity or guild in that city; *geld*, in the Saxon tongue, signifying money, and so named because they were associated either for charity, religion, or merchandize: and the members of it put together money, goods, or lands, for the support of the common charge; and had their annual feasts and neighbourly meetings. The purpose of this guild was for supplying Lichfield with good and fresh water, which by leaden pipes is conveyed near a mile, from the lands of John Burnes Floyer, at Aldershaw. The springs, six or seven in number, are well secured and covered with masonry work, and the water is thence conveyed to a conduit in Lichfield; the lands appropriated for this end are called the Conduit lands. At first such meetings were used by a mutual agreement of friends and neighbours, and particular licences were granted them

them for conferring lands or rents for the designs abovefaid, in order to evade the statute of mortmain, by which fuch gifts would otherwife have been forfeited. In the reign of Henry VIII, about the time of the feizing the church lands, this fraternity or guild, for fear of being feized was fpeedily enfeoffed with other lands, which I look upon to be the Wall eftate, let to — Hicfon, or Higgenfon, at 48l. yearly.

Lands named the *Lightwoods* or *Hellmoors* were purchafed by John Porter, as I conjecture of the Quintyns, and paffed to Sheldon his fon, now the eftate of his fifters and coheirs. The fame family poffeffes another good old manfion, with a farm annexed, called by the name of the Moat-bank, which lies at the farther end of Wall, towards Ogle, Hay, and Cannoc wood. There are alfo fome few other houfes in this hamlet, but we find nothing obfervable of them more than that we barely mention them.

We might add, that the Roman fouldiers who feized St. Amphibalus and his difciples (who had their place of worfhip, A. D. 286, at Chriftianfield, near Stickbrooke, a little diftance from Lichfield), were difpatched for that purpofe from this ftation of *Etocetum*, or Wall. This perfecution was named Maximinian's.

Lichfield (in which parifh one half of Wall is) had no name till that perfecution, and A. D. 672 was a fmall village; nay, foon after the year 1075 the bifhop removed his feat from it, a decree being made in a fynod, that the fees of bifhops fhould not be in fmall villages. The bifhop tranflated it to Chefter.

ALDER-

A L D E R S H A W:

So termed from a plantation of *alder* trees, and *shaw*, a name for many trees planted together, or the shadow of trees. It was formerly a manor, as Wall and Chesterfield, but now absorbed in the manor and corporation of Lichfield. Being annexed to Wall, and near to it, I could hardly avoid taking notice of it, having received from the late worthy Richard Burnes, esq. my friend and acquaintance, whose seat is almost the only house remaining in what was originally the manor of Aldershaw, some papers that have been useful to me in compiling these memorable things of Shenstone and its hamlets.

The following deeds I received from his hands, and, agreeable to a promise made him, here insert translations from the Latin, in which language they are written.

“ Know, all men, present and future, that I Thomas Cementarius (Mason), with the approbation and consent of Sarah my wife, have given and granted, and by this present deed have confirmed, to Robert son of Godwin de Alresage, his assigns and heirs, all the third part of my messuage, with the appurtenances, in Alresage, viz. that part which lies nearest the warren, and a fourth part of the virgate of land which I recovered before the justices of our said lord the king, which fourth part contains six acres lying in the free-field of Alresage; also two other acres, with their rights, to be held of me and my heirs, and to be held by him, his assigns, and heirs, by their homage and service, in free inheritance and peaceably, with all usual emoluments, paying to me, my wife Sarah, and our heirs, twelve pence yearly, at two stated times, instead of all service and demands, viz. at the feast of St. Michael six pence, and at the feast of St. Mary; for which gift and grant the

aforesaid Robert hath paid down one mark of silver, on which I Thomas and the aforesaid Sarah have warranted for ever the aforesaid land, as set forth to Robert abovementioned, his assigns and heirs, farther confirming the agreement by pledging hands*, and that this my gift and grant, with the free assent of the aforesaid Sarah, may remain firm and stable, I have strengthened it by my hand and seal. Witnesses, Geoffry Poynings, Robert de Wall, Thomas de Sahams, Robert de More, Alexander de Manchester, Roger Fitz Alan, Henry de Hamerwiche, Nicolas Typper, and many others. This deed has no date.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I Geoffry Fitz Walter de Chesterfield † have given and granted, and by this present deed have confirmed, to Nicolas Fitz Robert Godwyn de Alresage, for his suit and service, all that land which I held of my lord the bishop in the fields called Licholvefrudwig, with its rights lying upon the hill, and all the moor which I held of the bishop, saving to my heirs one fellion of land lying to the quarry, to be held, &c. paying to me, my heirs and assigns, yearly, one penny at the feast of St. John the Baptist, instead of service, exaction, and secular demands. For this my gift and grant, and confirming this writing, he hath, however, paid me in hand five shillings in silver; and I Geoffry, for myself, my heirs and assigns, have confirmed the said land, one selion excepted, and the moor, and have warranted the same to the aforesaid Nicolas and his heirs, against all men and women for ever, in evidence of which I have hereunto set my hand and seal. Witnesses, Alwyn de Wyrley, Hen. de Watre, Hen. de St. Angulo, Richard Andrew, Geoffry Fitz Maud, Roger de More de Wall, and others. This is not dated.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I Adam de la Lynde, have given, granted, and by this present writing have confirmed, to my son, all the land and tenements I held of the gift and grant of Henry Nichols de Lechfield, with all their rights, to be held of the capital mansion in Alreshal by John de la Lynde, my son, his heirs, and assigns, paying due and lawful suit and service for ever, in testimony of which I have hereunto set my hand and seal this seventh day next after the feast of the blessed Virgin Mary, in the fourth year of the reign of Edward, son of king Edward, of our Lord 1311. Test. Hugh de Wall, Rich. de Hardwic, Nic. de Lydiat de Allershall. Dated at Allershall.

“ Know, all men, &c. that I John, son of Nicolas de la Lynde, have granted &c. to John, son of Adam de la Lynde, my kinsman, his heirs and assigns, all the lands and tenements which the same Adam, his father, had of the gift and enfeoffment of Henry Nichols, in Allerschale, with their rights, to be held of the capital mansion of the fee by the usual customs for ever. Witness Hugh de la Wall, Hugh de la Byrde, Nicolas at Lydiat de Allerschale, Hugh de Allershall. Dated 7th next the feast of St. Mark the Evangelist, 8th of Edward, son of king Edward, 1315.

“ Know, all men, that I Jeffry Lyly grant unto Simon, son of William de Allershall, the full possession of the lands before passed to him, being my property in the

* Vide nudis manibus interposita.

† Cestrefield.

Riddings of Allershall, all the leases of those lands which he holdeth in the manor of Longdon. Dated at Allershall, ninth of Edward III. 1339.

"Know, all men, &c. that I William de Seckerton, rector of the church of Honton, have granted to Hugh Fitz William Nichols de Allershall, and to Simon his brother, all the lands and tenements, with the moors, pastures, and other appurtenances thereto belonging, with all the land which I have and hold at Hull, Houses in Allershall, Stonyhull, Littlemore, and Allershall mogges, to have and to hold, &c. In testimony of which I have set my hand and seal to this present paper. Witnesses, Ralph de Wall, Nicolas de Allershall, Thomas de Pollesworth, Nicolas at Lydyard de Allershall, John de la Lynde de Allershall. Dated at Allershall the first day after the feast of St. Hilary, in the reign of Edward III. after the Conquest the thirteenth, 1340.

"To all the faithful in Christ; know ye, that I Nicolas at Lydiart de Allershall have passed, to John Fitz Adam de la Lynde de Aldershall, all the lands and tenements which Adam de la Lynde held of me in Allershal, and hereunto have set my hand and seal. Witnesses, Radulph de Wall, William Nichols, Robert Hayes, Thomas de Pollesworth, and others. Dated at Allershall, on Monday next after St. Peter *ad vincula*, eleventh year of the reign of Edward III.

"Know, all men, &c. that I Matilda lady de Walters, being in my widowhood and in full power, have given, granted, and confirmed, to Simon Fitz William Nichols (Nicolas) de Alreshaw, his heirs and assigns, all the lands and tenements, with their rights, of my property, lying and being in Lachelf mogges in Elashale altogether, according to the measures and limits set, to have and to hold, &c. for ever, of the capital mansion of the fee, by the usual services. And I the aforesaid Matilda, and my heirs, do warrant the same lands and tenements to the said Simon and his heirs against all men for ever. In evidence of which I have hereto set my seal, in the presence of Randolph de Wall, William le Tanner de Lichfield, Nicolas at Lydiart de Allershall, William Nichols de Allershall, Edward de Pipe Parva*, and others. Dated at Allershall in the thirteenth of Edward the Third after the Conquest, on the feast of the blessed Virgin Mary, and in 1340.

"Know, all men, &c. that I John de la Lynde de Allershale, have granted to Hugh de Allershall (gent.), and Simon his brother, their heirs and assigns, one acre of land, &c. lying in Allerschale, in my field near the Middlestatche, and one acre in the field called Dunningham or Wall field; and eight several butts lying separately in the same. In testimony, &c. Witnesses, William Nichols, John Attemore, Robert Collins, William Clive, Robert Lecche de Allershall, and others. Dated at Allershall on the feast of St. Michael the Arch Angel, sixteenth of Edward III. after the Conquest, and in 1343.

In the 43d year of the reign of Edward III. directed to all the inhabitants of Aldershall, and those near it, who have claim therein. "Edward III. by the grace of God, of England and France king, lord of Ireland, &c. to the sheriff of Staffordshire, greeting; Be it known, that Thomas Le Tanner, of Lichfield, John de la Lynde, Adam de Redehull, and Agatha his wife, with Alice her daughter, Nicolas de Lydiart de Allershawde, John lord of Pipe, Elena lady of Wall,

* A village near Aldershaw.

Henry de Leach de Pipe (*besfelke* *), John de Herdeswic, Alicia his wife, William de Landy, and Editha his wife, Adam Fitz Simon de Wall, William Rygby de Wall, John Rygby de Wall, William Rygby de Wall, junior, John Lettreman, Agnes wife of Richard Birde, William Tibbins de Wall, have unjustly claimed privileges in Allershalle, having therein more beasts and cattle than is right. Ye are therefore to examine, &c. On which examination it appeared, that they had such rights, and had not over pastured Allershall fields. So confirmed at Westminster, 43 Edward III. on the oaths of John de Ashborne, John Lyon, John Walton, Richard Walton, William de Curborough, John Lyon, Roger de Cheshire, Roger de Redware, John de Wychale, Roger de Hintz, John de Sadler, John Allefmere de Allershaw, Roger de Tutton, Henry Puet, and Robert de Wathlone; who affirm on oath, that each person who hath one messuage and one virgate of land there, ought to have common pasture for six oxen, four heifers, four cows, and one hundred sheep, but these only of their own cattle. Signed and attested by the persons abovesaid, in the year of our Lord 1370.

"Know, all men, &c. that I Robert de Draycote de Lichfield have granted to John Thomynhorne de Allerschall, Alice his wife, and their assigns, a moiety of the land lying in Middle waste croft, formerly the property of Editha Waters; in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my seal. Witnesses, Adam Pratt, William de Wyrley, Henry de Wache of Pipe Parva, Adam Thompson del Wall, John de Lynde, and others. Dated at Lichfield on Monday next after the Ascension of our Lord 1373, 46 Edward III.

"Know, all men, &c. that I Thomas le Tanner, of Lichfield, have released for myself and my heirs, to Henry de Lynne and his assigns, all the right and claim which I have or may have in all the lands and tenements in Alderscale, which were formerly the property of John de la Lynde, father of Henry de Lynde aforesaid, so that I, my heirs, and assigns, may have no future claim; in evidence whereof I have hereunto set my seal. Witnesses, Thomas de Ryder, Richard de Trafford, John de Wyrley, Hugh de Hopeways, Henry de Tinmore and his son Henry, John de Tinmore, and Simon de Lichfield, and others. Dated at Lichfield on the feast of St. Mark, 47 Edward III. 1374.

"Know, all men, that Henry de la Lynne grants to Adam de Redehul, and to John de Thomynhorne, all the lands and tenements in Alderschale which were formerly John de Lynne's his father. Dated at Allerschale. Witnesses, Robert de Swynfen, Henry de Wache, James le More, William de Boweter de Lichfield, Edward Timneson de Wall, and others, 1374, Sunday after the feast of St. Dunstan.

"Know, all men, &c. that Sarah, daughter of Lambert Francigena (French), grants to Robert, son of Goodwyn, of Allerschale, as enumerated in the deed of of Robert Cementarius, whose wife I look upon this Sarah to have been (see the first deed).

"Know, all men, &c. that I Sarah Walters, relict of John de Walters, being in my full widowhood, and in full power, have granted to John Thomyhorn of

* Not intelligible.

Allerschale all that my land lying in the close named Wafrecroft, leaning to the road called Falseway on the one side, and to the land called Idesmoore on the other part; also I have granted to the said John all my land lying in Clerks-crofte, within the fee of Lichfield, between the land of Richard de Perton on the one part, and the land of Agnes de Draycote on the other part, to be held by the said John de Thomynhorne and his heirs, of the capital mansion of the said fee, by the usual services and customs, viz three-pence to the lord of the manor on St. John the Baptist's day, and three-pence on the Nativity of Christ, for all services and secular demands; on which I the aforesaid Sarah, and my heirs, warrant the said lands to John de Thamenhorne, his heirs, &c. In evidence of which I have set my seal to this deed. Witnesses, William de Walters de Lichfield, Henry and Nicolas de Pipe, Henry de Thamenhorne, William de Ferrers, John de Heywood the Forester, and others. Dated at Lichfield, on the feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, 50th of king Edward III. 1377.

"Know, all men, &c. that I Richard de Redehul, son and heir of Adam de Redehul, have granted, &c. to John de Alleschale, all that moiety of land lying in the close called Waftcrofte, lying to the Falseway on one part, and the way called the Hydesmere on the other, with their rights, being aforesime the property of the said Adam and Agatha his wife, and hereto I have set my seal, in presence of Robert de Swynfen, Thomas de Cook, Roger de Preston, John de Heywood, John de Criven, and others. Dated at Lichfield, 1 Henry IV. 1399.

"Know, all men, &c. that I John de Allerscale have granted to Sir William Newport a croft called Waftcroft, in the fee of Lichfield, and four acres of land, with their rights, in Clerkcroft, lying near the land of Robert Ridway, W. de Packington, except one acre in the said croft, called Wafrecroft, remaining to the vicars of Lichfield; which croft and four acres were formerly the property of Dame Sarah Walters, relict of John le Walters; and hereto I have set my seal. Witnesses, Henry Dean, J. Rutter, Richard Chambers, Robert Bowyer, John Scriven, and others. Dated at Lichfield the second day after the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, 11 Henry IV. 1410.

"John de Allerscale and Sybil his wife leased the same lands to Sir William Newport, paying yearly to them a red rose on the Nativity of John the Baptist. Dated at Lichfield, next day after the feast of St. Simon and Jude, 11 Henry IV. 1410.

"Know, all men, &c. that I Agnes, widow of Roger de la Lynde, have passed to Sir William Newport all my claim in a parcel of land called Clog flats in Allerscale, and in a parcel of land in Wall field, and Middle field. Witnesses, John de Barre, Richard de Colman, John Pott, and others. Dated at Lichfield, 20 April, 1430, 8 Henry VI."

From the deeds aforesaid it seems clear to me, that in early times, most likely soon after the Conquest, some person settled here took his name from the place *Allerschale* as it is written,

now *Aldershaw*, and possessed the rights of a manor here, if not also in Wall; and the late possessor had thoughts of claiming them, assuring me he doubted not of making good such pretensions from deeds and other memorials in his possession; and that this family had the manor, or possessed lands in it, to the 11th year of the reign of king Henry IV. if not longer. After this time the principal estate and mansion was, as I conjecture, in Sir William Newport's family. Either these, or a good estate here, were the property of the Lytteltons, of which family was Sir Edward, knight, who died possessed of them in the reign of Edward VI. and left them to Sir Edward, his son; which lands, or a considerable part of them, have long been in the name of Burnes. Another part we said was heretofore in the family of the Duttons, of Wall, now likewise in John Burnes Floyer, esq. Of this name and family was John Burnes, early in Elizabeth's reign, also a member of the corporation of the city and county of Lichfield in 1583, who probably raised and established his house. He had issue Thomas, who, by Margery, daughter of — Nichols, of Walsal, had issue John, who died in the lifetime of his father, leaving John, who died in 1682, a mercer, and person of fortune in Lichfield, a very active man for the parliament in the civil war, and in the commission of the peace in the time of Oliver Cromwell the protector. By Sarah, daughter of Richard Pyott, of Strethay, near Lichfield, esq. he left a son Richard, who died in 1692, who, by Dorothy, daughter of Ralph Hawkes, of Newton, esq. (of the same stock with — Hawkes, late of Hopwas wood, near Tamworth, esq.) had issue John, who died young, Richard, and two daughters who died unmarried. Richard Burnes, esq. of Aldershaw, died about the year 1767, leaving by Anne, daughter of John Leonard, of Wednesbury, one son, John Burnes Floyer, yet a minor, adopted.

adopted heir of John Floyer, late of Longdon, esq. and one daughter, Favoretta, aged 21.

Information hath been given me, that Thomas Burnes, in the reigns of queen Elizabeth and king James I. had a daughter, wife of Thomas Mynors, bailiff of Lichfield in the troublesome times of king Charles I. and a busy man for the parliament interest, an active justice of the peace, member of parliament under the protector, and founder of a free-school in Lichfield; guardian also of John Burns, the mercer, abovementioned. This Thomas Burns purchased Aldershaw and its mansion, then moated round, and in the first year of the reign of James I. part of Aldershaw, lands of Sir Edward Lyttelton, of Pillaton, called the Pamfields, with others adjoining named the Abnells. Lemonstley, near Aldershaw, is a portion of lands belonging to the family of Burns in part; another part was given to the school in Beau Street, Lichfield, by Thomas Minors, its founder, as before noted.

The last Richard Burns, of Aldershaw, with Randolph Bradburn, of Pipe hill, purchased lands called the Upper Wattages, which passed into the hands of Edward Jackson, late of Wall, who (or some person who recovered them from him) sold them soon after.

In 1741 an act of parliament passed for raising the sum of two millions thirty-eight thousand sixty-five pounds eleven shillings and five-pence, of which Lichfield was to raise four hundred and twenty pounds nineteen shillings and four-pence; Samuel Hill, esq. of Shenstone park, and Richard Burns, were commissioners, as they were in most public affairs during their lives.

Richard Burnes, esq. was one of the trustees for that fraternity in Lichfield, called St. Catharine's hospital, for the support of fourteen poor women; which charity being greatly abused,

abused, the grievance was redressed in some measure by his instigation, and by the particular application of his friend the late John Floyer, of London, esq. who procured a decree in chancery for the better management of the said charity.

Aldershaw hall is a neat and modern-built house, with walled gardens, and canals; being situated on a rising ground, it affords a fine view of Lichfield cathedral, and part of the city. John Popham had lands in Aldershaw, which passed with those mentioned in Wall.

S W Y N F E N.

Swynfen is a village on the road from Hintz and Weeford to Lichfield. It is not, indeed, in the parish of Shenstone, but in Weeford, yet, being in its constablewic, I found myself under some sort of obligation not wholly to omit it. What is properly called the district contains no notable mansion, except the hall itself, which is an elegant seat, begun by the last possessor, under the direction of Benjamin Wyatt, late of Blackbrook, in the parish of Weeford (Wayford), a noted architect; and which, though a designed wing is not yet completed, hath cost upwards of six thousand pounds.

The manor of Swynfen, being in the reign of king William I. in the parish of Weeford, appertained to the bishop, yet afterwards

wards was in the family of Ferrers; for, Robert second earl of Ferrers confirmed the religious donations made here in or before the reign of king Henry II. William de Rolleston seems to have held the manor of Swynfen under the family of Ferrers; for, in the days of William Rufus, or Henry I. this William, son of Sir Henry Rolleston, of Rolleston, in Staffordshire, dying issueless, gave two parts of the tenths of his demesne lands at Swynfen to the priory of Tutbury, in Derbyshire, which grant was confirmed by Robert earl Ferrers, son of Henry the founder of it. How long it was in the name of Rolleston I have not learnt, though probably some ages, as they were persons of note in this county. Yet I find, that in the reign of Henry I. Robert de Tonkes had one fee in Sudenfeyn (Swinefen): in all likelihood, some person in one of these families in time took the surname of Swynfen. In 1374, Robert de Swynfen witnessed the grant of Henry de la Lynde to Adam de Redehill, and John de Thamenhorne, passing lands in Aldershaw. In 1399, Robert de Swynfen (perhaps his son) was witness to a deed of Richard Redehill, passing lands to John de Allerschale. In the 13th year of the reign of Henry VI. William Erdswic Swinefen, of Swinefen, married Jocosa, or Joyce, daughter and coheir of William Sparnore; and in the reign of Henry VIII. John Swynfen, of this place, married Maria, daughter of William Repyngton, of Amyngton, near Tamworth, esq. The son of this John seems to have been Richard Swynfield, who, at the visitation of Glover, Somerset herald at arms in 1583, was resident here, allowed to bear a coat, and acknowledged to be of a gentleman's stock. This Richard I look upon to have had issue, besides other children, a daughter —, wife of — Dugdale, esq. of Clitherow, Lancashire, father of Sir William Dugdale, of Blythe
P p hall,

hall, near Coleshill, in the county of Warwick, the great antiquary.

I find too William Swynfen, of Swynfen, about the reign of king Edward VI. whether father or brother of the last Richard I cannot affirm, having never seen a genealogy of their line, who married Dorothy, daughter of James Noel, of Hillot, in the county of Stafford, esq. (of a great house in this county, who possessed Ellenhall, Raunton, Seighford, Mulnameese, and several other lordships). About * the reign of Elizabeth, Richard Swynfen's daughter Eleanor was bestowed in marriage to Walter Chetwynd, esq. who had issue by her William, and John, of Rudge, esq.

John Swynfen, of Swynfen, was a noted person in the reign of Charles I. the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, and in the reign of king Charles II. being a busy man in behalf of the parliamentarians under every administration. He was also of the committee of Stafford, and under that pretence harrassed the whole country, and even his own tenantry; he had also gained such an influence, that many affairs of the county were chiefly determined by him, and when Mrs. Snead was plundered at once of 200l. 150l. and upwards was put into his hands. In 1643, December 22, he, Thomas Crompton Pudsey, William Bendy, Henry Stone, and others of that committee, gave forth the warrant, signed in their own hands, for the demolishing of Stafford castle. Such was his behaviour till the Restoration. In the time of the long parliament, Ralph Snead, junior, and Richard Weston, esqrs. being elected burgeses of Stafford, they were outed in order to admit John Swynfen (usually named Ruffet-coat, from his affected plainness and pretences to sin-

* MSS penes. Dom. Chetwynd, vicecom.

cerity),

cerity), and Edward Leigh, of Rushall hall, esqrs. In 1679 he was active to raise the militia of London, Westminster, Southwark, and the Tower hamlets, of Middlesex, and Surrey, by an address to king Charles II. The next day, though Sunday, the House of Commons ordered a bill to be brought in (pursuant to their resolve fourteen days before) to disable the duke of York to inherit the imperial crown of England. This bill was ordered to be drawn up by Mr. Bennet, Mr. Trenchard, Mr. Hampden, Mr. Sacheverell, Mr. Swynfen, and others. On this occasion the historians * observe, that, "by these proceedings of the Commons, it plainly appeared, that they only sought occasion to drive things to extremities." We may observe also, that this John Swynfen, March 30, 1648 †, with Salway, and colonel Jephson, was sent by the parliament to lord Inchiquin, on suspicion of his falling off from their interest; their instructions were prepared by the committee at Derby house. In 1667 he paid to the quarterly assessment for the royal aid £.1. 14s. 6d. ob. and died, as I think, in the year 1682.

John, his son, succeeded him, and the same year was witness to an indenture between John Brown, of Thornes, gent. and Alexander Ward, of Shenstone park. Whether this John was in parliament I am not certain, but think he was, being in other respects of considerable note and esteem. In 1694 he is mentioned as paying to the poll-tax in Shenstone one pound one shilling, and ten shillings for horses. Mary Swynfen (probably his sister in law) paid one pound one shilling; Francis Swynfen, for himself, wife, and six children, one pound eight shillings; Mr. Swynfen also paid, for two grand-children and seven servants, nine shillings. This John had issue Richard Swynfen,

* Echard and Rapin.

† Whitlock.

and Samuel, if no more; and three daughters, one of which was wife of ——— Smyth, of Long Whatton, Leicestershire, who had issue by her two sons, Swynfen Smyth, who went abroad, and died childless, and John, of Shepey, Leicestershire, who was concerned in the iron trade. Another daughter of John was Mary, wife of Thomas Willington, of Tamworth, gent. When this John Swynfen died I have not learnt, but find he had a brother, who married a niece of Matthew Ducie Moreton, lord Moreton.

Richard Swynfen succeeded, and was a member of the House of Commons, and gentleman of the privy chamber; but, dying without issue in the reign of George II. the next was his brother and heir,

Samuel, a physician of skill and great practice at Lichfield, in 1714, and several years afterwards; but removing from Swynfen hall to Birmingham, died there in 1736, leaving issue, among others, George, a clerk, chaplain to the governor of Fort St. George, in the East Indies, and John, who went supercargo of a ship in the East India Company's service; both of them died abroad unmarried; likewise several daughters, of which are Frances, living at Lichfield; ———, another, wife of ——— Turton, esq. of Hargrave in Alrewas (descended of the younger brother of ——— Turton, of the Oak in West Bromwich), now or late of Stafford, by whom she hath children; and at least two more, unmarried. Samuel, the physician, removed, as I said, to Birmingham; and the family, being on the decline, sold Swynfen and the old family estates. The wife of this Samuel was Mabel, one of the two daughters and coheirs of ——— Fretwel, esq. of Hellaby, near York; which Mabel survived her husband many years, dying aged in the reign of George III. Dorothy Fretwel, the other sister and coheir, married Richard Pyott,

Pyott, esq. of Strethay hall, near Lichfield, and had issue by him a daughter -----, wife of ----- Johnson, counsellor at law, of York city, who had issue by her a son Richard, who died issueless; and a daughter, wife of Sir John Heydon, of Yorkshire.

Some years before the death of Richard Swynfen, esq. elder brother of Samuel, was living, in the parish of Shenstone, a person named Samuel Swynfen, who, being poor, claimed to be a relation; but this was not admitted, as he gave no interesting or clear proofs. Going afterwards to London, he became servant to a Hamburgh merchant; and, being a person of capacity and fidelity, the merchant affording him also, with a small stock, opportunities of raising a fortune, through the blessing of Providence, he acquired a considerable one, and then purchased the family seat and estate of Swynfield or Swynfen of the physician aforesaid. This person I take to be the same who is named Samuel Swynfen, fishmonger, of London; and, in June, 1736, paid the usual fine to avoid serving the office of sheriff for that city. At his death he left a large fortune to Thomas Princeps, of Croxall, Staffordshire, son of — Princeps, who married his sister, and by whom he had also issue a daughter —, wife of — Bloomer, of Coleman hill, near Hales Owen, now an attorney at Birmingham, by whom she hath children.

Thomas Princeps hath by —, daughter of — Nuthal, of Birmingham, Thomas, and others. But Samuel Grundy, sister's son of Samuel Swynfen, of —, was the principal heir.

Samuel Grundy, by obligation of his uncle's will, took the name and arms of Swynfen by act of parliament. This gentleman

tleman lived in a close manner, rather as a farmer. With money left for his use in the funds, in order to purchase estates in Staffordshire, and his own savings, he had in his hands many capital mansions at one time, with several manors; *viz.* Oxley, one mile from Wolverhampton, purchased of — Wroughton, gent. who had married his sister — Grundy, of Appleby, Leicestershire, remarried to Samuel Huskyns, in whose tenure it lately was. Samuel Swynfen rebuilt the mansion of this Oxley. I observe, that it was one of the eighty-six lordships bestowed by king William I. upon William Fitz Aufculph, the first Norman baron of Dudley. Elmhurst hall and manor, near Lichfield, bought of Sir Theophilus Byddulph, baronet; Fisherwick, near Lichfield, purchased of the earl of Maffarene, sold by Samuel Hill, of Shentone park, esq. who leaving it to his nephew, Samuel Egerton, of Tatton park, esq. it passed again by purchase to old Samuel Swynfen, who sold it to John Ludford, of Ansley, Warwickshire, esq. as guardian for Arthur earl of Donegal, the present owner; Swynfen, the family seat, which he rebuilt, and several others near Lichfield and Tamworth; or Hopewas. The said Samuel Swynfen, esq. died at Swynfen, October 2, 1770, a bachelor, aged about 70.

John Grundy, a brother's son of the last gentleman, was heir by virtue of the obligation and entail of Samuel Swynfen, of London, abovementioned, taking also the name and arms of the Swynfens. This John is about 25 years old, and, in 1769, married — daughter of — Abney, of Tamworth, esq. and hath issue.

Hill Hall in Swynfen is a considerable old-built mansion belonging to the Porter family, of whom we spoke in Wall, and, with the land thereto belonging, went from John Porter of Lichfield

field to Sheldon his son, and upon his decease to his sisters; they were by them let to Thomas Mallett, in whose tenure they remain (1773); and, I observe, they were in the Porters in 1667, for that year John Porter paid 5l. 8s. 5d. to the tenth quarterly payment assessed for the royal aid. Dated June 11.

To what we have noted of this hamlet, we may add, that Doctor Plott, in his *Natural History of Staffordshire**, mentions a way to clear old trees from moss, told him by Mr. Swynfen, of Swynfen, which sucks away the sap, and prevents them bearing fruit. This was to fire the moss in divers places with a whisp of straw; this, he said, would quickly run over the tree and clear it from such annoyance; it was usually done at Christmas, but particularly at Twelfth-tide.

In the hollow way between the hills on Weeford heath, as we pass between Swynfen and Cannal hall, the seat of Sir Robert Lawley, baronet, in the same parish, lie divers heaps of little opake pebbles, which tradition says † were laid where a bishop and his servants that were robbed and murdered were found; but the truth is, that bishop Vesey, then living at Sutton Colefield, employed poor people to carry them out of the road, to prevent horses tripping.

In the same village of Swynfen, or near it, is the most eminent barrow or low in those parts, called *Offlow*, which, though it be placed near Watling-street, seems not to be truly Roman, but is rather the tumulus or burial-place of some eminent Saxon.

Of these lows Dugdale ‡ says much in his *Antiquities of Warwickshire*; we have also spoken of them under Cats-hill, in Upper Stonall.

Swynfen's coat of arms was, party per pale, a chevron, Argent and Sable, 3 leopards heads of the first.

* Page 385.

† Plott's History, c. 4.

‡ In Knighlow hundred.

Thus,

Thus, as I proposed, I have given an account of Shenstone and its several hamlets. In the first district are Shenstone, Shenstone park, the Moss, Wood End, Radley Moor End, Aston, Fotherley, the Boffes, and Little Hay; nine districts. In the second division, Over Stonall, Nether Stonall, Lyndon, Thornes, Chesterfield, Wall, Hilton, and Swynfen, adding something of Aldershaw, as near Wall and Chesterfield, and much connected with them; nine districts.

Finished to this place, at Hales-owen, November 3, 1773.

Δόξα τῷ Θεῷ.

Of the Manor of SHENSTONE, and the Lords in Chief.

From a supposition that the foregoing account of the parish of Shenstone would be deficient, though given with all the accuracy possible, unless we could say something of its lords in chief, and those that held the manor under them; I resolved, if possible, to trace them out, and set them before the reader. This hath been the more difficult, for the reasons already given, the want of proper materials, and of records that should ascertain them; but such things as have occurred to me are given; and, as I have proposed to lay these things down in order, they may amuse or give others opportunity of explaining matters more fully.

It was the custom of the Saxons to set apart a quantity of land for the public service, which was rented out and accounted for in the department to which it belonged.

The crown, under the Saxon kings, had many of these lands, which were applied to the ordinary expence of government; so it seems to have been in shires, to bear the expence of the shire militia, and other exigences of the internal police of the shires. Whence it came, that at the dissolution of the old government, in 1070, of the shires, such a quantity of the land fell into the hands of the king, that he hardly knew how to dispose of it. This land he divided into manors and baronies, and gave them away to his Norman nobility, gentry, and clergy, who held them as fiefs of the crown, whence come our court barons, manor courts, and court leets. As to the internal policy of the country, he placed it in the hands of officers of his own making.

Manors, then, in substance, are as ancient as the Saxon times, though, perhaps, differing a little in some immaterial circumstances from those that exist at this day. *Manerium* comes *à manendo*, because the usual residence of the owner seems to have been a district of ground held by lords or great personages, who kept in their own hands so much land as was necessary for the use of their families, which were called *terræ dominicales*, or demesne lands, being occupied by the lord or *Dominus Manerii* and his servants. Manors were formerly named baronies, as they still are lordships; and each lord or baron was empowered to hold a domestic court, called the court baron, for redressing misdemeanors and nuisances within the manor, and for settling disputes of property between the tenants. This court is a separate ingredient of every manor; and, if the number of suitors

should so fail as not to leave a jury, or homage, *i. e.* two tenants at least, the manor would be lost.

All manors existing at this day must have existed by immemorial prescription, or at least ever since the 18th year of the reign of king Edward I. when the statute *Quia emptores* was made; for no new manors can have been erected since that time, because it is essential to a manor that there be tenants who hold of the lord; and that statute enacts, that for the future no subject shall create any new tenants to hold of him. Barons and lords of manors continued the same till the reign of king John.

Our history, law, and records, convince us, that not only the peers of the realm, or nobles as they are now called, but all persons who held their estates *in capite* from the crown, were antiently styled barons*, though they were only commoners according to the present acceptation of the word; nay, even great tenants to greater subjects. The word *baron* hath been so communicated, that all lords of manors have been from old time, and are at this day, called barons, as in their style of court barons.

Shenstone, or, as it is written in antient records, *Scerteſlane*, in the reign of William I. was the king's demefne land. I find, in the list of such places or manors as the king held, one named *Scelſtone*, but am not sure it was the same; neither can I say who had it before the Conquest, or till the great survey in the 20th year of the reign of king William I. at which time one Leonilde held it of the king, *in capite*, and most likely his descendants to the days of king John†; when it was holden of Henry D'Oyley's barony, which being a great house, and being

* Selden's Titles of Honour.

† History of Staffordshire.

barons of this kingdom, I shall venture to give some account of them. I have seen the addition to their Christian names, De Olgio and Ougi, from a town in France.

The family is of great antiquity and honourable; they were lords of Olgii, or Oyley, in Normandy, in the days of Edward the Confessor. The baron de Olgio had Robert, one of the adventurers with William his prince, after king of England, who, for his good services at the Conquest, was rewarded with two baronies, St. Walery's in Normandy, and Oxford (as Dugdale says by mistake), or rather Hook Norton, in Oxfordshire; yet I find that, after the king had taken Oxford, in order to secure it, he caused Robert D'Oyley to build a castle on the West side of the city, fortified with large trenches and ramparts. The same Robert also beautified and repaired the walls of the city, then much decayed. Oxford after this became cheerfully subject to the Norman government; the castle was erected in 1072, so that it does not seem clear that he was baron of Oxford, yet he is sometimes called constable of Oxford, and, as I think, the king's constable. At the time of the general survey, he was possessed of four lordships or manors in Berks, seven in Bucks, fourteen in Hertford, one in Bedford, three in Gloucester, three in Northampton, one in Warwickshire, twenty-eight in Oxfordshire; or, as another account has it, forty-two in Oxfordshire, having at the same time forty-two habitable houses in Oxford, and eight which then lay waste; as also eighty acres of meadow land adjoining to the walls, and a mill, valued at 16s. yearly. This lord is said to have built the bridge or bridges at Oxford, and with Roger de Eyverio (Ivery), a man very familiar with him, and his sworn brother in war, (who had also promised to share fortunes with him, on

which account it is said Robert gave him many estates, and, as some conjecture, the barony of St. Walery), to have founded, in 1074-5, the collegiate church of St. George in Oxford castle, for a dean and prebendaries, as most proper and agreeable to an university, and to have endowed it with lands, tythes, and revenues, out of their revenues; as also the church of St Mary Magdalen, in the suburbs of Oxford, and three hides of land in Beaumont fields.

This lord, Robert D'Oyley, was a witness to the founding of Selby abbey, in Yorkshire, by king William I. and attested the charter of king William Rufus to the abbey of Eynsham in Oxfordshire. He died before the end of this reign, and was buried at Abingdon; his wife was Alghitha, daughter of Wygot, a noble Saxon, a person of great note in that age, lord of Wallingford (who entertained the king after the battle of Hastings), by whom he had issue an only daughter, Matilda. This lady, inheriting the valour of her ancestors, bravely defended the empress Maud in her castle of Wallingford. Her father gave her in marriage, 1084, to Milo Crispin, who had eighty-eight lordships in England at the survey, of which Hillingdon, in Middlesex, is the chief seat, and thirty-three in Oxfordshire. He dying in the 7th year of the reign of Henry I. the king gave her in marriage to Bryan Fitz Count, son of Baldwyn de Rivers, earl of Devonshire (by Lucie, daughter of Drue de Baladen, or Balun baron of Overwent and Abergavenny in Wales, sister and heir of Hamelyn de Baalun lord of Abergavenny), to whom she brought the lordship of Wallingford, and other large estates; he had two sons that were lepers, but whether by Maud D'Oyley I am not certain. Robert D'Oyley, first baron of Hoke Norton and St. Valery's, dying, in 1090, without issue male (both he and his wife

wife being buried in Abingdon abbey, to which, as well as to St. Mary's church there, they were bountiful benefactors, and where, in 1084, king William, keeping his Easter, left his son Henry under the care of this Robert D'Oyley for his improvement), he was succeeded by

Nigel, his next brother, baron of Hoke Norton, 1090, who was the king's constable. He came into England with Robert aforeaid, and Gilbert, a younger brother, who had lands in Oxfordshire bestowed on him by the Conqueror. Nigel D'Oillei was witness to the charter of king Henry I. granting privileges and lands to the abbey of Hyde near Winchester; also to the charter of the same king to Edwardston priory in Suffolk. When he died I have not learnt, but he left two sons, Robert, and Fulke who was buried at Erisham, or Eynsham, in 1126. The wife of Nigel is named lady Agnes.

Robert Fitz Nigel succeeded his father as lord high constable and baron of Hook Norton. He was a gallant man, and much esteemed by king Henry I. He is mentioned as a witness to that king's charters to St. Peter's hospital in York; to Pontefract priory; in 1133 to Cirencester abbey. He also gave eighteen denariats rent at Oxford, and twenty near that city, to the Knights Templars of St. John. In a catalogue of the lands belonging to those knights drawn up by John Stillingfleet in 1134, he, and Henry his son, are said to be donors of lands in Oxford and Gosford to those Templars. The same lord Robert was an evidence to the empress Maud's charters, to St. Fridewith's in Oxford, and to St. James's priory at Exeter, signed at Oxford. In 1138, he signed the charter of Sir Robert Gayte, founding Otteley, or Thame abbey, in Oxfordshire. He was also witness to John St. John's charter, giving lands to Godstow near Oxford; and, in the reign of king Stephen, he gave Lambey meadow

meadow to the same nunnery, one half of it being confirmed by that prince, and the other by the empress Maud, with a measure of corn yearly. He is likewise named as an evidence to the charter of king Stephen to the priory of Alcester in Warwickshire. His wife gave lands of her dowry in Welton to Thame abbey; to which is a witness Fulk D'Oyley. King Henry II. confirmed to the same religious house thirty-six acres in Welton, the gift of Robert himself, who also built St. Mary's church in Osney; and, during the siege of Oxford under the empress a new chapel called St. Thomas's, because they durst not go to St. George's. On the whole, he appears to have been a devout person, but still more are we confirmed in this opinion from his founding the abbey of Osney for regular canons of St. Augustin *, 1129, in the isle of Oseneia, formed by the Isis, near Oxford castle. To this abbey he gave many estates, and several churches, as Chadlington, Welton, Hook Norton, Claindon, Chesterton, and Seneftan, or Shenstone; whence it appears, that this place was in the family in the reign of Henry I. and, by a second charter, he annexed to it lands in Foresthill, Burton, and both the Stanhales; or Stonhalls, in the parish of Shenstone, with all their rights and tenths. This same lord built and richly endowed the abbey of Miffenden, in Bucks, in the first year of the reign of king Stephen †. He was one of the witnesses to the charter of the king's laws; but, in the 6th year of the reign of king Stephen, when the empress Maud, attended by David king of Scotland, came with much triumph from Winchester to Oxford, he delivered up the castle to her. His wife was Editha, daughter of Forne, son of Sigewolfe lord Greystock, both great barons ‡, a lady highly esteemed by king Henry I. (having been

* Monasticon Angl.

† Dugdale.

‡ Speed.

his concubine, by whose procurement this lord married her; his issue were two sons, Henry and Gilbert; also a daughter named Editha. Robert Fitz Nigel baron D'Oyley, of Hook Norton, was buried at Eynsham abbey, near Oxford.

Henry, his eldest son, succeeded him, as also in the office of constable, and was sheriff of Oxfordshire from the third to the sixth year of Henry II. He is expressly said to have a castle in Shenstone, called Old fort, and to have given or confirmed the manor of the Mofse in Shenstone to the abbey of Osney, with a certain part of his manor of Shenstone called Stanhall, which Hugh de Twyne, who held it and other lordships of him by military service, had formerly bestowed on the canons of Osney. This Henry D'Oyley is said to have passed away the manor to the family of Bray, and to have confirmed * to Radulph de Bray, chaplain to king William Rufus, the lands held under him by the said Ralph's father; but here must be a mistake. Either Ralph might be chaplain to king Henry II. or some of Henry D'Oyley's ancestors might grant it to the family of Bray, in the latter end of the reign of king William I. or William Rufus, which is not improbable, if this manor was granted soon after the great survey taken by William I. to Robert or Nigel, predecessors of Henry lord D'Oyley. It seems clear, however, that the D'Oyleys continued lords in chief, or lords of the fee, as we shall note hereafter. This Henry was witness to the charter given by king Henry II. to the priory of Plympton, in Devonshire. In the 12th year of the reign of Henry II. upon an assentment † of the aid for marrying the king's daughter, he certified his knight's fee to be thirty-two and a third part of the old feoffment, and one and a half, with a twentieth part of the new feoffment; for

* See Wilkes's papers.

† Dugdale.

which

which fees he paid 21l. 11s. 1d. In the 14th year of the reign of Henry II. the other twenty-one shillings for those *de novo*, being then in arrear. In this same reign Gervase Paganel, baron of Dudley castle, certified to the king, that Henry D'Oyli held one knight's fee under him, for which the same lord Gervase owed scutage, or military service; and Robert baron Stafford certified at the same time, that Henry D'Oyley held three knights fees of him, which were held under Henry D'Oyley by Walter Fitz Tywa, Ralph Fitz Roger, and Ralph, each one; where these fees were I cannot be certain; but I find that about this time the D'Oyleys had large possessions in Gnosall, Conley, and Raunton, in Staffordshire. Henry D'Oyley was buried in 1163, at Osney abbey. His wife was Maud, or Margery, daughter of lord Humphry de Rohun, with whom he had the barony of Braenham*; by her he had five children, Henry and Robert; Margery, at length heir to the family, a daughter, wife to Maurice Gaunt; and a third daughter, wife to Thomas† lord of Daventry.

Henry, the eldest son, was the fifth baron D'Oyley, and constable of England. He, as his father had done, confirmed to the canons of Osney the lands before mentioned lying in Shenstone; and it seems probable, that this man passed away the manor of Shenstone to the Brays; to confirm this, certain papers in my possession say the last Henry D'Oyley was the person, yet it is certain, that the earl of Warwick was the lord, or superior lord, in the 20th year of the reign of Henry III. as heir to the D'Oyleys. Dugdale says, this lord dying without issue, the inheritance of his estates devolved to his two sisters. Another account given is, that he married two wives, Sybil and Maud (who, surviving him, was remarried to the great baron William de

* Dugdale.

† Baronetage.

Cantelupe, sheriff of Warwick, Leiceſter, Worceſter, and Hereford; governor of Wilton and Hereford caſtles, in the reign of king John, yet afterwards joined the barons), and had iſſue an only daughter, Maud, ſole heir to her father, but ſhe died young, and unmarried; that he went with king Richard I. into Judea, and died in Auſtria, 1192, and was buried there, though it is ſaid elſewhere *, that he lived till the year 1232.

Robert, his brother, was the next baron, and conſtable of England, ſheriff of Oxfordſhire in the reign of king Richard I. and one of the barons † that took up arms for the liberties of England againſt king John. He died about the end of the year 1232 (16 Henry III.), without iſſue. His two ſiſters were found to be his heirs, the eldeſt of which, Margery, carried part of the family eſtates to Henry de Newburgh de Bellamont earl of Warwick, her huſband, who, by her had iſſue Thomas, earl of Warwick, and Margery; which Thomas, on the death of his uncle Robert, had livery of his lands (17 Henry III.) doing his homage, and paying to the king 100l. for his relief, with two palſtries. He died in 1242 (26 Henry III.), iſſueleſs, poſſeſſed of Shenſtone, where, in the 20th year of the reign of Henry III. he gave licence for a park to be made, to which is added, that the ſaid manor was held of him.

Margery, his ſiſter and heir, married to John Marſhal, brother to William earl of Pembroke, who, by favour of king Henry III. was earl of Warwick, but died about half a year after Thomas earl of Warwick, his brother in law. She married, after his death, and by favour of Henry III. to John de Placetiſ, a native of Poictou; alſo, by permiſſion of the king, earl of Warwick, but had no iſſue by either of them; ſhe was living in

* Memoirs of Oſney.

† Alſo an aſſiſtant to the 25.

the 34th year of the reign of Henry III. but we find not the time of her decease. It is remarked, however, that Hugh, his son, by Christian de Sandford, his former wife, succeeded in the barony of Hoke Norton, and, in the 48th year of the reign of Henry III. paid 100 l. relief for that and other estates of the D'Oyleys, whose son Hugh was summoned as a baron in the 25th year of the reign of Edward I.

We note farther of the family, that the offices and honours went with Margery D'Oyley as aforesaid; but Robert, son of Gilbert D'Oyley, succeeded in blood, of which line came the two families of Shottesham, in Norfolk, and of Chislehampton, Oxfordshire, created baronets by king Charles II.

Arms of the D'Oylyes; Or, 2 bendlets, Azure.

Of this great family we observe, that they founded the abbeys of Osney, and Missenden, Bucks, and were great benefactors to the religious at Abingdon, Eynsham, Godstow, Thame, and many others, both in England and France; they also built the bridge or bridges at Oxford, and the castle, of which they were castellans, or constables, till deprived by king Stephen.

The manor seems to have continued in the earls of Warwick, but whether by purchase of the other heirs descended of Johanna, wife of Reginald de Valletortâ, sister and coheir with Margery D'Oyley, or by any other way, I am not certain; yet I have seen an account, that William Maledoctus (Mauduit) earl of Warwick, possessed it in 1263 (47 Henry III.), and after him William de Bello Campo (Beauchamp), earl of Warwick, in right of Isabel his wife, sister of the late earl, or rather heir to that earl; for, though he and his wife survived, and were heirs, as we may express it, to the earldom, they had not the title. This earl died in the 26th year of the reign of Edward I.

Guy

Guy de Beauchamp earl of Warwick was son and heir of William, in whose line we suppose Shenstone was till the death of Henry Beauchamp duke of Warwick, and king of the Isle of Wight, being so crowned by the king's own hands. His death happened at the age of 22, in 1445 (23 Henry VI.).

Anne, his only child, by Cecily his wife, daughter of Richard Nevil earl of Salisbury, was his heir. She died January 1449, aged 6.

The same year Richard Nevil, called *Make-king*, was earl of Warwick, his claim being by his wife, sister of Henry duke of Warwick aforesaid. He was slain, with John Nevil marquis of Montague, his brother, at the battle of Barnet, 1471, by king Edward IV. Being attainted, his estates were settled upon Isabel and Anne, his daughters, then married to George duke of Clarence and Richard duke of Gloucester, brothers of Edward IV. amongst which are named Sutton Colefield and Yardley, near Birmingham; Walfall, Perry Bar, Patingham, and our manor of Shenstone, in the county of Stafford. The countess, his wife, underwent great distress, and was obliged to take sanctuary in the abbey of Beaulieu, Hants, where she continued for a long time in a mean condition, but thence privately got into the North, where she was in great streights. Which of the daughters had Shenstone we do not find; but king Henry VII. in the third year of his reign, having a mind to the estates of the late earl (his daughters being both dead), by a new act of parliament annulled the former, as against all reason, conscience, and course of nature, and contrary to the laws of God and man; and, in consideration of the true and faithful service and allegiance borne by Anne, countess of Warwick, relict of the late Richard Nevil earl thereof to king Henry VI. as also that she never gave cause to a disinherison, restored unto her the pos-

feſſion of 115 lordſhips, of which Shenſtone was one, with power to alienate the ſame, or any part thereof; but, like himſelf, with little purpoſe that ſhe ſhould enjoy them, for it appears, that the ſame year, bearing date December 13; and a fine thereupon, ſhe conveyed them wholly to the king, entailing them with the iſles of Jerſey, Sarke, Guernſey, and Alderney, upon the iſſue male of his body, with remainder to herſelf and her heirs.

Elſewhere it appears, that king Richard III. kept her in priſon during his life, and that ſhe was living in the 5th year of the reign of Henry VII. and then had Sutton Colefield allowed for her ſupport. In what year ſhe died is not ſaid.

The manor is ſaid to have paſſed next to a branch of the Nevils lords Latimer; and Thomas Nevil is mentioned to poſſeſs it, and to have been high ſheriff for the county of Stafford in the 2d year of the reign of Henry VIII. as I formerly noted, ſeated at Shenſtone park. In my opinion he was not the lord of the manor, but might have acted as an agent or deputy for the great earl of Warwick, his daughter Anne, who died aged fix, counteſs of Warwick, or his relict aforeſaid; or herein might ſerve king Henry VII. and Henry VIII.

In the reign of Edward VI. that prince granted it to that great ſubject, John duke of Northumberland, earl of Warwick, marſhal of England, lord high chamberlain, and lord admiral, viſcount Liſle of Kingſtone Liſle, baron of Somery, Baſſet de Drayton, and Tyes baron Dudley of Dudley caſtle, knight of the garter, general warden of the North, and warden of all the marſhes towards Scotland; this, with other eſtates, he forfeited, and was attainted, and beheaded, in the firſt year of the reign of queen Mary I.

Queen

Queen Elizabeth granted it to Ambrose Dudley, surnamed the Good earl of Warwick; and, in the 22d year of the reign of that queen he was in possession of it. He was the eldest surviving son of John duke of Northumberland, as above, and brother to Robert earl of Leicester, the great favourite of queen Elizabeth. This Ambrose died February 21, 1589 (32 Eliz.). Anne, his widow, daughter of Francis Russell earl of Bedford, afterwards possessed the manor of Shenstone, as appeared on a view of frankpledge of the court baron of the most noble lady Anne countess of Warwick, widow, late wife of the most noble Ambrose earl of Warwick, on the 7th of October, in the 33d year of the lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, of England, France, and Ireland, queen, defender of the faith, before Robert Sheldon, gent. deputy of Edward Hake, esq, chief seneschal to the said countess, and is thus enrolled: "To this court came Nicolas Collins in his own proper person, and gave up a cottage or tenement, and a garden, with other premises, in which the said Nicolas now dwells, situate, lying, and being, in Shenstone parish, with intention that the same might be passed over to Thomas Collins, son of the said Nicolas, which the said Robert Sheldon passed over to Thomas, that he might have and hold the same premises to him and his heirs according to the custom of the said manor, paying to the countess and her heirs yearly 16d. of lawful money of England, and doing proper suit and service, &c."

Signed R. Sheldon.

On the parchment in which the said conveyance is made, is inscribed, "The manor of Shenstone cum membris." The countess was living November 19, 1592.

Sir Robert Dudley, son of Robert earl of Leicester, was heir to Ambrose his uncle, earl of Warwick, and enjoyed many of the family estates. In the reign of James I. he claimed the earl-

doms of Warwick and Leicester; but, being ill treated, he left the kingdom. He was afterwards recalled, but, not returning, his estates were all seized, and vested in the crown during his natural life, by the statute of Fugitives. In 1620, he was created a duke of the Roman empire by the emperor Ferdinand II. and was called duke of Northumberland in foreign parts. His lady also was by king Charles I. created duchess of Dudley for her life, bearing date at Oxford, May 23, in the 20th year of his reign. She died January 22, 1668-9, aged 90. This great and able man died in September, 1549, aged 66.

Shenstone, and other the estates of Sir Robert Dudley, being in the crown, king Charles I. granted that of Shenstone to one Balmerino*, a Scotsman, who sold the park as before described, to — Lake and Alexander Ward, and the seignior, with Thornes, a member thereof, to Rowland Fryth, a master in chancery, whose great grandson passed it to — Smyth, belonging to the same court.

In respect of this, I should imagine Balmerino was only the title of this Scotsman who possessed Shenstone, his real name being — Elphinstone, baron Balmerino, ancestor of Arthur lord Balmerino, beheaded for rebellion in the reign of George II. I am the rather induced to this, because one Elphinstone is mentioned as an attendant on king Charles I. 1628, whose father, Sir James, was so created in 1604; and also seeing the older inhabitants of Shenstone have a tradition, that the manor was given by king Charles I. to a Scots lord. After all, my sentiments are, that the great fee, or right *in capite* of the manor, continued in the crown, and was so granted to Balmerino.

* Wilkes's papers.

Of the Manor of SHENSTONE, and the lesser Lords of it.

Shenstone, or *Scertestan*, was in the hands of William the Conqueror, and, in the 20th year of his reign, was held of him by one Leonilde, whom I look upon to have been the owner of it under Edward the Confessor, in part from his name, which seems to be of Saxon derivation. How long he or his family possessed it is not said, but a noted antiquary * tells us, that in king John's reign it was holden of Henry D'Oyley's barony; and, in the reign of Henry III. when Henry, first earl of Warwick, had married Margery, sister and heir of Henry D'Oyley, it was holden of him; afterwards of Thomas earl of Warwick his son, by Robert de Grendon, by the sixth part of a knight's fee *de veteri feoffmento*, who had issue Roger, father of Ralph; and that one of the family held it till he forfeited it, or rather yielded it for the redemption of his hand, which should have been cut off for striking in the court.

This account hath its errors, and is very deficient; for, it was not Henry first earl of Warwick that married Margery D'Oyley, but the sixth earl who married her, who yet was not the heir, but the coheir and sister of Henry D'Oyley the fourth baron, and of Robert the fifth baron, being the children of Henry the third lord D'Oyley. The sisters and coheirs were Alicia, and Johanna,

* Erdeswicke.

wife of Reginald de Valletortâ, and, as the family descent has it, of Thomas lord of Daventry. Alicia was wife of Maurice de Gaunt, ancestor of, or of the same families with the earls of Lincoln of that name, and the earls of Berkley.

Robert de Grendon might hold Shenstone, as Erdeswicke says, of Thomas earl of Warwick, but he hath taken no notice of a family that had possession of it before the Grendons, or how they came owners of it. This was the *Brays*.

Tanetine de Brai seems to have had it, probably, by marrying Leonilde's daughter and heir, which Tanetine, as I think, came in with king William I. and so held it as of lord D'Oyley's fee. He had issue William, and Ralph de Bray, chaplain to king William Rufus; to him Henry D'Oyley, the constable to the king, granted the lands that Tanetine de Brai, his father, held here. This family * had the manor of Shenstone, and had their residence in the place. William de Bray, most likely heir to Ralph, the king's chaplain, had issue a daughter Avicia. To this man Henry lord D'Oyley granted or confirmed the manor and his lands at Shenstone; for his soul, and that of his family. The nuns of Poleworth found two priests, who were, to celebrate divine service, and to offer masses for their health, and for all the faithful deceased. We find many of the name of Brai, as William de Brai, who was witness to a charter of the Conqueror to Battle abbey; and Milo de Brai, a benefactor to the abbey of Eye in Suffolk; but we are not certain they were related to Tanetine. The husband of Avicia, daughter and heir to William de Bray above said, was Sir Robert de Grendon, son of Richard, son of Roger (in the reign of king Stephen), who took the surname from the manor of that name in Warwickshire, and

* Wilkes's papers.

was therein enfeoffed by — Camville, who had it from Henry de Ferrers, or his son, being, as I suppose, the son of Thurstan of that place, in the reign of king William I. Sir Robert de Grendon, about the 20th year of the reign of Henry III. obtained, from Thomas de Beaumont earl of Warwick, licence to make a park at Shenstone, provided he made such a fence here that his forest of Sutton should receive no damage from it. If this were not Sir Robert, son of the aforesaid Sir Robert and Avise de Bray, who, in right of his mother, and as heir to his grandfather William de Bray, became possessed of Shenstone, a fair lordship in Staffordshire. This was a considerable person, being a justice of assize in the 34th year of the reign of Henry III. sheriff of the counties of Salop, Bruges (Bridgenorth), and Ellesmere *, at which time he gave one hundred shillings for a charter of free warren in his lands. In the 33d year of Henry III. he adhered to the barons, but soon after to the king. He was contracted in marriage to Joan le Boteler, but did not receive her; and next married Emma, daughter to William Basset, of Sapecote, of the noble family there. He was a benefactor to the nuns of Poleworth. His issue were Sir Ralph, John, and Alice, wife of John de Clinton.

Sir Ralph de Grendon was one of the justices for the gaol delivery at Warwick in the 2d year of the reign of Edward I. lord of the manors of Shenstone, Grendon, &c. He had disputes with Geoffrey de Camville about the services due for the latter manor, but, in the 4th year of Edward III. they came to an agreement, of which Dugdale † treats farther. In the 31st year of the reign of Edward I. he confirmed to the nuns of Poleworth the grants of his ancestors, and to the chapel of Hoo

* Dugdale's Warwickshire.

† See Antiquities of Warwickshire.

belonging to them the lands bestowed for the support of two priests. Unless this be meant of Sir Ralph, his son and heir, one of whom was summoned to parliament as a baron in the 28th, 32d, and 33d years of the reign of Edward I. but not after; this, I suppose; was Ralph the father, who died in the 5th year of Edward III. He had two wives; 1. Joan, cousin to the bishop of Bath, by whom he had Sir Ralph aforesaid; 2. Alice de Clinton, by whom he had issue Margaret, wife of John de Freeford; Alice, of Sir Philip de Chetwynd, and Joan, of Sir Roger de Chetwynd. Sir Ralph, the younger, had issue Robert, and Johanna, wife of John de Rochford, who had issue Sir Ralph de Rochford, father of Margery, his heir, in the 8th year of the reign of Richard II.

Robert was a man but of weak understanding, of which Sir Philip de Chetwynd, with John de Freeford, who had married his aunts, taking advantage, entered upon his estates, under pretence of their wives right by virtue of an entail made in the 27th year of the reign of Edward I. and of Alice de Clinton, their mother, having a joint estate with her husband in all his lands. Robert thus pressed, and yet rightly advised by some friends, who clearly discerned that Robert would be overborne, applied for assistance to Henry Tortcol (a potent man at that time), duke of Lancaster, yielding unto him the whole manor of Shenstone, to hold for term of his life, or the longer liver of them, conditionally that he would protect him in the possession of Grendon, and his lands at Copshul, Dordon, &c. This being performed, Robert so prevailed, that the several parties * quitted their interest to him and his heirs in the 17th and 19th of Edward III. and, dying without issue in the 23d year of the

* Lodge in Chetwynd.

reign of Edward III. his lands descended to Sir Ralph Rochford, his nephew, who entailed them upon his issue by Joan, daughter of Sir Hugh Meynel, with remainder to his three sisters successively; then to Sir Richard Stafford and his heirs; according to which entail Shenstone and Grendon continued for divers years, until at length, Sir Ralf Rochford being dead, the said Joan his wife married again to Hugh de Asheby, with whom Sir William Chetwynd making an accord*, became possessed of a part of the estates, having, in the 39th year of the reign of Edward III. compounded with Isabel, the widow of John de Rochford, for her title and dower therein, formerly granted to her by Sir Ralph Rochford, her son-in-law.

Grendon's arms were, Argent, 2 chevrons, Gules.

Sir Roger *L'Estrange* died † seized of the manor of Shenstone, in the first year of the reign of Richard II. but how it came to him is not said; probably by marrying to one of the family of Rochford.

I find that *Henry de Harcourt* had lands in Shenstone, Alrewith, and Barr, all which he passed away to Alice de Trumwyn, dated at Alrewith, by deed, in the 10th year of the reign of Edward II. which Alice was wife of Sir William Trumwyn, of Sandon and Hardwic, Staffordshire, where she had her dowry in part, being a widow in the 24th year of the reign of Edward I. Part of her lands she passed over to Roger Trumwyne. Where the possessions lay in the parish of Shenstone I cannot learn, nor whether they were any of the lesser manors therein.

Harcourt's seal annexed bears Barry of six, in a chief a label of three points.

* Antiquities of Warwickshire.

† Kennet. Wilkes's papers.

The manor came afterwards to the *Hugfords*; a good family of Hugford in Salop, of long standing, and of Emfcote, in Warwickshire, where we meet with Robert Hugford, who, by Joyce his wife, had issue Thomas, who, by —, had John and Thomas, of Prinethorp. How long the family had it I cannot find; but this John had it, as I conjecture, in the reign of Henry VI. He died in the first year of the reign of Henry VII. seized of it, and left issue three daughters; Joan, wife of Humphry Beaufo; Alice, of Richard Cotes; and Anne, of Gerard Danet. Which possessed Shenstone I know not, but a partition was made of his manors of Wolfstone, Merston, Wapenbury, Eyethorpe, Badfley Clinton, Wolfthorpe, in Warwickshire, and other estates. On the 26th of November, in the first year of Henry VII. on an inquisition, it was found, that George Stanley lord Strange received the profits of it. Most likely Robert aforesaid purchased it, who, in the reign of Richard II. was receiver general to Thomas Beauchamp earl of Warwick; and, in the 5th year of the reign of Henry IV. member for Warwickshire. Thomas Hugford * was in the same capacity under Richard and Henry Beauchamp earls of Warwick in the reign of Henry VI. also constable of Warwick castle. John was steward to Richard Nevil earl of Warwick, and his constable; his fortune was greatly encreased by marrying Margaret, daughter and heir of Nicolas Methley.

King Charles I. bestowed it upon a Scotsman, as aforesaid, who speedily disposed of it to *Rowland Fryth*, esq. or, as I should suppose, jointly to *Edward Morton*, of Engleton, and this Rowland; for, Thomas Moreton, and William Fryth, of

* Thomas Nevil, esq. of Shenstone Park, is called lord of the manor in the 2d year of the reign of Henry VIII; but I refer the reader to the account of the greater lords, p. 296.

Murival,

Murival, January 10, in the 3d year of the reign of Charles I. as lords of the manor, freed a messuage and lands at Fotherley, the estate of J. Adams.

Of the Moretons I find Thomas, who by Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Moreton, of Engleton, esq. had issue Richard, 2. Thomas, 3. Edward, 4. Robert, and six daughters. Richard died in 1634; Thomas died in 1662; and their mother in 1664; but Thomas left issue Thomas, who died in 1710, leaving Thomas and Edward. Edward, the third son, who was (or acted as joint) lord with William Fryth, by Mary, daughter of — Yates, of London, gent. left a son Thomas. Robert died in 1676. Probably the Moretons sold their shares to the Fryths. A larger account of this family is given in Aston hamlet.

The next possessors of the manor were the Fryths, of whom we spoke under Thornes in Over Stonall.

We meet with the name in the parish register in 1580; for, in that year was baptized Ellen Fryth. I should imagine the family had their residence here, and were of good account in the reign of Henry VII. or Henry VIII. about which time Edward Fryth married Alice, daughter of — Jolliffe, esq. of Thornes.

In 1583 was a visitation of the heralds at arms, at which time Thomas Fryth, of Thornes hall in Shenstone parish, was declared to be one of the persons who had presumptuously, and without good grounds or authority, usurped the name and title of a gentleman, contrary to all right and the most antient custom of this land, and the usage of the law of arms, and was admonished no more to take upon him any such title, upon such farther pains and peril as by the earl marshal of England is to be inflicted; the sheriffs and clerks of the assizes, and of the peace, were also admonished to forbear for time to come to call him by the name or title of *Esquire*, or *Gentleman*. This said Thomas Fryth.

Fryth, making no proper proof of his gentry, bearing no proper arms, was disclaimed by found of trumpet at Lichfield, Wednesday, August 14, 1583. Signed by Glover, Somerset herald, marshal and deputy to Norroy king at arms, and the commissioners attending. Arms were, in 1583, allowed him. This Thomas had issue, as I suppose, Rowland, William, two sons named Thomas, who died infants, a third Thomas (living in 1599, and that year buried a daughter Alice), Edward, who died in 1587, Alice, Eleanor, &c. by Elizabeth his wife, who died in 1608. William, called lord of the manor, I look upon as an agent for his father or brother Rowland. In order to reconcile the antiquaries, and yet I suppose such concession has its difficulties, the words of one are, "one Balmirino *, a Scotsman, sold the feigniory of Shenstone, and Thornes, a member thereof, to Rowland Fryth, a clerk in chancery, whose grandson, Rowland, sold it to — Smyth, belonging to the said court." The other † says, "The king in this last age gave it to a Scotsman, who sold Shenstone park to — Lake, esq. and Alexander Ward, of Lichfield, who have each of them seats there. The feigniory, and Thornes a member thereof, he sold to Rowland Fryth, a clerk in chancery, who made it his seat, and dying left it to Edward his son, father of Rowland the herald. Edward lived upon it in 1660."

I had lately in my possession several deeds relating to this family, in which I find that Rowland Fryth, of Thornes (I am not certain he had then the manor of Thornes or Shenstone), and Peter Alport, of Elmhurst, gent. had, by letters patent, a grant from king James, dated July 2, at Westminster, in the third year of his reign, all that his manor called by the name of the

* Wilkes's Collections.

† Sir Simon Degge.

Moss house, in the county of Stafford, with its rights, members, appurtenances, ways, &c. in Shenstone, Over Stonall, Nether Stonall, and Thornes, or any of them to it belonging, late parcels of the possession of the dissolved monastery of Osney in Oxfordshire, to have and to hold the same manor, and to hold it of his manor of East Greenwich by fealty only, in free and common socage, and not in *capite*, nor by knight's service, yielding and paying yearly to the crown for the said manor and other premises, 9s. 9d. at the Feast of St. Michael, and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the exchequer, or to the bailiff or receiver of the premises for the time being in equal portions.

In the 8th year of the reign of James I. September 20, and in the 10th year of the same reign, part of the lands were passed to different persons in the parish, for whom Thomas Fryth, gent. and — Thornton, acted as their attornies, to which conveyance Thomas and William Fryth signed as evidences.

In the 8th year of the reign of James I. July 18, other parcels of the same abbey lands were conveyed away by Rowland Fryth and Peter Alport to John Hunt, of Nether Stonall, for the conveying of which, and to give seisin, were appointed as attornies John Persehouse, gent. and Robert Molesey.

In the 10th year of the reign of James I. Rowland Fryth was evidence to John Hunt's disposal of a part of the same abbey lands to *Rowland Ridding* of Lynne.

Rowland afore said seems to have been the purchaser of Shenstone manor, being, as I think, son of Thomas of Thornes (1583), as John probably was, who died in 1597.

William was certainly lord of the manor; for a deed I have seen says, William Fryth, of Murival, and Thomas Moreton, freed lands in the parish. If he were the eldest son of Rowland,

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it may reconcile matters ; but then it will appear, that Sir Simon Degge and Dr. Wilkes have omitted to mention him.

William Fryth, of Murival, and Thomas Moreton, in the 3d year of the reign of Charles I. for a sum of money paid to Rowland Fryth of Thornes, gent. enfeoffed John and Alice Adams of certain lands, and freed them ; paying 12d. yearly, and one hen, upon the 10th of January yearly, and doing suit and service at the court baron of the said lords after Easter and Michaelmas.

William Fryth and Thomas Moreton, as joint lords, passed and enfranchised lands in Little Hay to John Thickbrome ; also to Thomas and Joyce Collins, of Little Hay ; which several evidences will suffice to shew that William Fryth was lord, or joint lord, of the manor.

Edward succeeded William his brother, and seems to have held the whole manor, unless we may except Aston Parva, where the Moretons had their seat. Edward is mentioned in a conveyance of William Wyatt, of Lichfield, passing lands to Edward Wyatt in 1647, and then signed as an evidence to another of the same family in 1654, to which also is witness Henry Fryth, but whether his brother or son is not expressed.

Edward Fryth, of Thornes, gent. and Grenada his wife, had issue Thomas, born in 1665, and, as I conjecture, had also Hugh (living in 1663, having a daughter born that year by Elizabeth his wife), Edward, Rowland, Charles, and Henry. Edward (the father probably) died in 1668.

Edward seems to have been the eldest surviving son, and to have been in possession of the manor in 1673. This man Dr. Plott mentions in his Natural History of Staffordshire, as giving him some accounts relating to Shenstone parish. At the same time we cannot but observe, that Charles Hinton, Walter Fowler,

ler, Edward Fryth, and Thomas Scott, are mentioned as lords of the manor (1664), and acting in that capacity in freeing lands and tenements, but to what parts they laid claim I have not learnt; yet am of opinion, that three of them were concerned only in the district of Aston, the seigniory as aforesaid being in the Fryths.

Mrs. Fryth is spoken of as residing at Lynne in 1667, and as paying 12s. 6d. *ob.* her quarterly levy to his majesty's aid. She was re-married to John Brown, of Footherley, gent. but had no issue by him, and died in 1695-6.

Rowland succeeded as lord of the manor, but whether as heir to his brother we cannot say, or to his father, owing to the pedigree being burnt by a farmer at Stonall, not knowing its value. This Rowland Fryth lived at Thornes hall, and was as aforesaid an agent here for William Fryth, of Murival, and Thomas Moreton, esqrs. in the 4th year of the reign of Charles I. In 1647, October 9, he and Edward Fryth were witnesses to a purchase of lands in the Old field by Thomas Sylvester. In 1682, he, John Swynfen, and others, witnessed a deed passing lands in Radley Moor to James Adams, and again signing another conveyance (as lord of the manor) from John Brown, of Thornes. April 7, 1682, he confirmed the agreement made by Edward, his father, about the partitions of Radley Moor; and at another time conveyed a part of it to the use of the poor. He also established his mother's gift of 50l. before taken notice of, for the poor widows of Stonall, and gave the handsome dial in Shenstone church-yard. His character * was, that "he was a man of great integrity, and remarkable for his fidelity to the king and church."

* See monument of John Gibbons, St. Mary's, Warwick.

Of this gentleman we find farther, that he had at least two brothers, Charles and Henry. Charles Fryth was collector of the land and window tax for the county of Stafford, for the due execution of which Rowland was security. The money received being, as was usual in those days, sent to London by a messenger who had often been entrusted with the government's money, he fled with his charge into France, and was no more heard of by the family. The crown officers then fell upon the security, who was obliged to make up the deficiency to a considerable amount. This greatly hurt Rowland, whose family was on the decline. After some time, matters being properly represented, by aid of friends, and some money paid in part of purchase, he had an office amongst the heralds at arms. Going to take possession of the place, he died in London, was brought to Shensstone, and interred in the church. Such is the information given me by several old people in the parish. The antiquary * names him "Rowland Fryth the herald;" adding no other circumstance, but that his father was Edward, son of Rowland, a clerk in chancery, who made Thorne hall his seat. Charles abovesaid is described to have been lame, and to have died before his brother Rowland. Of Henry we learn, that he was a tradesman of Wolverhampton, and that they had two sisters, one of which killed herself by drinking coffee to excess; the other, wife of James Hayes, a noted apothecary, father, by her, to James, who was of the same profession. I should have added, that Rowland, out of opposition to — Smyth, of Over Stonall, or the Harp inn, erected the Swan inn, just by, a handsome mansion, which, with other projects and losses, impaired his fortune, before decreasing; yet by the way we may remark, that the Harp inn

* Sir Simon Degge.

has been some years shut up, and for seven years before unnoticed as formerly, and that the Swan is an elegant and reputable house, in the hands of James Penn.

Of Rowland we note, that he was distinguished for his attendance upon most funerals, in order to preserve the parish rights, and their claims to certain ways called Burial Roads, and for his kindness to all ranks of people. When he died I am not certain, but find him named as an active person in 1712. His wife was -----, daughter of ----- Whitwick, esq. of Farwel, near Lichfield; but I find no issue mentioned that I can affix to him. Yet it is observed, that Elizabeth, daughter of Rowland Fryth, of Thornes, gent. was wife of John Gibbons, descended from a genteel family in the county of Stafford, which John died in 1693, aged 67, and was buried at Warwick. Of this family was John Gibbons, of New hall, near Sutton Colefield, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, who bought Wigginfil manor of Robert Pudsey, esq. held by the fourth of a knight's fee; and, in 1563, being possessed of the advowson of Sutton Colefield, presented thereto John Foden, clerk. John Gibbons, by Elizabeth his wife, had issue seven children, of which the only survivor was William Gibbons, M. D. Fellow of the College of Physicians, of London, who gave the crimson velvet pulpit cloth and cushion to Shennstone. A gentleman descended of the physician now lives at Sutton, and, as I think, is unmarried. I find too that Rowland Fryth had a daughter, Eleanor, wife of William Scott, of Barr, by whom she had issue Thomas, aged forty in 1663, and Edward, who seated himself at Aldrick. "Thomas * lived in a pretty seat, and was so agreeable as to be accounted the prince of yeomanry, continuing the old manner of house-keeping, in hospi-

* Antiquities of Staffordshire, written in the reign of Charles II.

talities to strangers, and relieving the poor; and as he was not sparing to himself in taking his recreation when his other affairs gave leave, so he was not ashamed to put his hand to the plough to encourage his servants; and, in truth, in these parts of England none were known to equal his yeoman-like method of living, but many, that took upon them to be more gentlemen, came very far behind him, both in estate and manners of living."

Now, as to these daughters, I must confess, that the first may have been the child of the last Rowland Fryth; but Eleanor, wife of Thomas le Scott, as he is called, must have been the sister of Edward, children of Rowland the elder.

Arms of Scott: Argent on a fess Gules cottised, Az. three lambs of the first, between three catharine wheels, Sable. Crest, a beacon fired.

A curious collector * says, "that Rowland Fryth sold the manor to — Smyth, belonging to the court of chancery." To this we can reply, that it was sold by his executors, of which Samuel Brown was one, then of Footherley hall, brother to John of Thornes, who married Grenada, mother of the said Rowland Fryth, esq. and that the sale of it was in the reign of king George I.

Arms of the Fryths, of Thornes hall.

Sable on a chevron embattled Or, three annulets, Sable, between three poll axes, the blades Argent.

We add, though somewhat out of its place, that Rowland Fryth, and Edward his son, of Thornes, were sufferers for their loyalty to king Charles I. and were obliged to a composition with the sequestrators, at 270l.

* Dr. Wilkes.

In 1692, Rowland Fryth, his mother, wife of —— Brown, with six servants, paid to the poll tax.

Thomas Fryth, esq. died at New Windsor in 1733; but I cannot affirm that he was of the Thornes hall branch.

The manor was sold, as before said, by the executors of Rowland Fryth. Lord Paget bid 6000l. for it; but John Smyth purchased it for 6500l. in no degree then a good consideration. This John Smyth was one of the corporation of curfitors in the exchequer for the division of Warwickshire, Southampton, the city of Coventry, and town of Southampton, and was possessed of the manor of Wombon, in Staffordshire, estates at Whiston-croft, Seafdon, Treaful Muchel, Bonnegal, Albrighton, &c. Dying unmarried in the reign of George II. he demised the manor of Shenstone, with those and other estates, to William Tenant, esq. a citizen of London, often mentioned in this treatise, and of Aston hall in Shenstone.

William Tenant, esq. lord of this manor, patron of St. Martyn's church in Birmingham, as heir to John Smyth, married ——, and hath issue one son, aged 21 in 1774, of the University of Oxford.

John Hodgetts, of Prestwood, esq. seems to have been the next heir in blood to John Smyth, for he came into possession of 300l. yearly, which the same John Smyth had articulated to purchase near North Cleobury, in Salop, and for which William Tenant paid after the sudden decease of John Smyth, esq.

N A T U R A L H I S T O R Y.

The A I R.

The air of Shenstone is reckoned to be pure and wholesome to the natives and healthy persons, exceedingly agreeable, owing to the situation and an open country, generally speaking, clear of woods; for that is remarkably the case in respect of Cannock wood, the timber upon it having been cut down, as we think, some ages, and none since planted, but for pleasure or prospects. The village itself, Hilton, Over Stonall, Thornes, and some other parts of the parish, are situate on rising ground, and have, unquestionably, their advantages.

The Boffes, Lower Stonall, part of Lynne, Little Hay, part of Aston, the Park, the Moss, Fotherley, and Chesterfield, have in a few years undergone several improvements, particularly from Samuel Hill, under the late Joseph Elde, and others; from John Rawlins, of Greensberry hill, and Thomas Adcock, of Lynne; so that, if the lands about them were in any former time unhealthy, which I never heard of, they are now so greatly changed for the better as to be both pleasant and desirable habitations; and some of the most elegant seats are built, where, if we may so express it, lands have been made, as at the Park, Fotherley,

Footherley, and the Moss. We must, however, acknowledge, that weak, consumptive, and asthmatic constitutions find Shenstone air too keen.

A proof that Shenstone is a wholesome situation arises from the longevity of its inhabitants, of whom we meet with Henry Lea, who died in 1660, aged 107; — Crispe, at 81 or 82; — Dickenfon, who died in January, 1767, aged about 92. The latter worked with the needle not long before she was taken hence, and walked tolerably well from Stonall to Shenstone, near four measured miles; widow James, of Chesterfield, buried at 89, in 1767; Joseph Tedd, buried in 1770, aged 83; widow Brishourn, of Little Hay, who was upwards of 91 and six months in June, 1767, when I visited her; Sarah Ingram, buried in 1751, aged 81; but, above all, Susanna Southwell, mother to Joseph Jobbern's wife, of Wood-end, who survived to the age of 112, and just before her decease talked rationally, informing me with several transactions of near an hundred years date, to which she was an eye-witness.

To these I could add several people of great age living in the parish (August, 1774), but think it prudent to omit them.

Secondly, we note the W A T E R S of this Parish.

The largest is named the *Bourn* (a water springing out of the earth, and the brook issuing from it), rising in several streams on Colefield Chace, which uniting form a considerable lake, or pool, near Mill Green and Aston, bearing still the same appellation, and being within that part of the Colefield which belongs to Little Aston; thence it passes to Mill Green, where, with
other

other waters, it becomes useful for grinding of corn, afterwards goes on by Aston, and Aston forge, through the Moors to Footherley, thence towards the Holme, near Shenstone, dividing the parish into two parts.

The next considerable river is also termed the Bourn in general, though in different places it hath other names. It rises about that part of Cannoc wood towards Norton, called the Riddings, somewhat below Wilmore hollies, in several little springs, which are soon increased by a little water from the Hollies; thus, making a pretty current, it passes by Hamerwick, and below Wall, to Ogley Hay, and thence towards Hilton, where it is named the Cranbrook, having here a bridge over it, though it is commonly low in summer; afterwards to the Moors and Chesterfield, where it again is termed Chesterfield water; thence to the Ashcrofts, so to the Holme (a little isle formed from these brooks), where, after it hath been enlarged by the way with several streams, it unites with the river first named the Bourn. Becoming now a large water, it supplies Shenstone corn-mill, held by Thomas Woolley, and holds its course through the lands adjoining to Shenstone old hall, to Shenstone park, and by Thickbroom and Weeford heath, or park, to Weeford, where it gains the name of *Blackbrooke*, and has over it a large handsome stone bridge; thence it runs to the North side of Drayton Bassett Park, the seat of the lord viscount Weymouth, and near Fafely bridge falls into the Thame; at Tamworth, it receives the Ancre, and thence runs into the Trent by Hopways, Fisherwic, Haseler, Croxal, and Whichnovre.

Aston water rises in Cox's Moors, about a quarter of a mile from Mill Green, amidst some alder trees in several springs. These uniting a little way from their head afford a considerable stream, and join the larger Aston brook in its course from Aston mill

mill to the forge, by which waters the pool there is in a good measure supplied for the working of iron oar.

The *Pen*, or *Penke*, a pretty rivulet, rises in Upper Stonall, in the lands of Noel Hill, esq. called the Spring Pieces, most delightfully bubbling out of the earth in ten or twelve different places, nearly together. It runs in its channel for six or seven hundred yards, above that part of the Stonall road that leads to Aldrich, and has in its way within that compass two small reservoirs. It continues its course upon the great road, but is several times diverted to water the neighbouring grounds, by which its strength is broken till winter, or rainy weather, when it greatly increases in spite of the farmer's endeavour, passes down Stonall through the lands named the Wallongs, down to the Wall heaths, then joins the *Quebb*.

The *Quebb* is a little water which rises near the Wall heath pieces, in the lands called Smith's marshes, and, uniting with the *Pen*, passes to Birchley farm, near Lynne and Owls hall, to the Bourn, or Fotherley brook, by which time it becomes a large water, runs next to the Holme, and into Cranbrook by Shenstone mill, and to Blackbrooke.

The *Pen* is a most excellent water, and, being the only one of any consequence in Over Stonall, a dry and sandy soil must needs be most useful and agreeable. Indeed, there is a pool, termed Clay Pit pool, above this village, near the summit or the eminence on which was the castle or old fort, fed by some springs on the higher ground, which afforded an opportunity of moating round the castles, such a trench being yet visible. This rivulet runs on the side of the village opposite to the *Penke*, but in a wet season runs down the street-way, and joins the *Penke* in the Pease croft *, near

* Lands of William Tenant, esq.

the Swan inn. The Wallongs, beforementioned, were lands of the Hawes family, now of William Tenant, esq. through which the Penk passes, as also through the town crofts, Cotgrave's upper, lower, and middle crofts, in the course we expressed.

Of *Druidsmere pool* we spoke in Upper Stonall, but what the noted Dr. Plott observes *, the notice it gives of a dearth by overflowing, we could hardly avoid mentioning; he adds too, that at other times it is nearly dry. This pool, or lake, was named of the Druids †, who were legislators of Gaul and Britain, held the doctrine of Pythagoras, and pretended to the converse of some deity, holding the doctrine of a future state of rewards and punishments. They were ministers of the sacred rites, initiated into, and presided in, the mysteries. They had their doctrine from Egypt, and celebrated the orgies of Bacchus. Their end and drift in initiation was to restore the soul to the state whence it was fallen, as its native seat of perfection.

Their moral precepts were, to revere the Gods, to offer fruit to them; to honour their parents, to forbear cruelty to animals, and to amend their lives. They had their smaller and greater mysteries, their external and internal doctrines, as being the genuine offspring of the Egyptian priests, who shared the government of the state. Over their mysteries they had a chief to keep matters orderly, and prevent mischief to the state.

As enough has been said of them, we proceed to observe, that another little water is found near Stonall, called *Tumbledown*, falling from land in or near the castles, which joins the Bourn at the Hogmoors, between Lynn and Fotherley.

* Natural History of Staffordshire, p. 228.

† Ibid. p. 286.

The *Mofs Lake* is the only water of note that we have not mentioned in this place, having remarked it in our account of the Mofs; yet we may add, that it might with little expence be made an additional beauty to the Mofs house, especially by a little alteration of the road, and taking part of the meadow opposite.

Thirdly, we speak of the SOIL and LAND.

Here we find good pasture both in the meadows and higher ground, which last is of such a nature as to be pleased and fertile with much rain, being of a dry sandy earth, producing, according to the pains bestowed upon it, plentiful crops of barley, oats, and some good wheat; but the parish is mostly noted for excellent barley, not hereby excluding other grain, as vetches, pease, &c. At the same time I have been a witness to lands, starved to all appearance, and starving the tenants for generations, being so well cultivated as to produce very even unexpected returns to the present possessor, of which I instance the castle lands, and particularly Shire Oak farm, but I must say, at a vast expence, even to the laying on earth upon stones, and beggary itself; so much can industry and a spirit of improvement avail. Nor by mentioning these lands do I mean to disregard the cultivation of many farmers who have notably distinguished themselves, but those I remark were bad as the dry and barren heath a few years since. They have all contributed to raise a sweet and feeding grass, both for cows and sheep. One important alteration hath been, the cultivation of turnips, and hoeing them, by which prudence and method thousands of sheep

have been fattened, and that so well known, as to cause an increase of tythes (1773) to Edward Harwood, the vicar. The corn lands too have returned greater and almost incredible sums to the present owner of the rectorial tenths, Noel Hill, esq. and have been improved accordingly (the same year); many people now paying double or treble more than was demanded antecedent to 1773.

Butter, and particularly excellent cheese, are made, and these in plenty through all parts of the parish, a convenience too for the payments of rents, which were also advanced generally by all the land-owners in 1773.

Marling is customary in some parts, but it is not equally good in all places; there is, however, excellent marle under the stone beds in the mines of Noel Hill, and John Dolphyn, on the side of Shenstone leading towards Swynfen, and adjoining to the Pindle fields, and on the Stonall side, which has been greatly serviceable in the improvements made.

Lime too has been a good article in improving and forcing crops of grain, but, though it be fetched only five or six miles, from Hay Head, Rushall, or Walsall, is a dear article, and yet seems absolutely requisite on the Shenstone lands. Lime, as some object, brought at 25 s. the waggon load, by its heat producing a fermentation, makes a show for one or two crops, but afterwards is detrimental, especially if often repeated, as the barren calx left behind it is at best a useless load upon a good soil, if it does not contribute to canker the roots of whatever grows thereon. Experience opposes such objections; for, lime certainly lightens the earth, and from its fixed salts must be useful in vegetation, and is used not only here, but wherever it can be procured; indeed, it is often mixed with soil, or other manure, and is often turned, or till it becomes an excellent compost; and I have

have seen it spread upon grazing ground with good effect, so as to freshen and strengthen the useful food, enriching that, and killing the uselefs or noxious herb. As to the barren calx, it is easily removed, as other stones that incommode the ground.

A still greater improvement is the dung, and other manure, which is fetched in great quantities by the industrious farmers, from Lichfield and Walsall, and is frequently added to the compost beforementioned, and both together procure means and food to fatten sheep in abundance, oxen, and cows. Of the former the farmer will give thirty or thirty-five shillings to lay on turnep lands, and sell them out with advantage; of the latter, the late Joseph Elde fed many on the lands near Shenstone park, to an amazing size, which were commended as very good meat.

Mines there are of stone and clay, but no great quantity of either is got here. Half a mile from Shenstone village is a stone quarry; when first dug out, it is of a red cast, and soft; but, when exposed to the air, grows hard and durable, and no question in other instances we might find stone. Good clay is found in Shire Oaks farm, Lynn, Nether Stonall, and near Shenstone Hall, to which last belong some fields, called the Brick Kiln Pieces, where — Brandreth got the clay to build the hall. Marle is found in Lynne, Stonall, and the Boffes. Some conjecture coal might be found at Aston, and, indeed, so John Butler assured me, from the appearances of the water and other circumstances.

We can hardly avoid speaking of the Peat heath, though in some part of this county it comes under the article of fuel, or fire, especially in the Moorlands. Peat being described as a sort of stringy and bituminous earth, which lies under the uppermost turf in moorish boggy ground, and being dug out of holes called Peat pits, and cut into the size of bricks, they are set to dry,

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as in Oxfordshire, Cheshire, &c. being a fuel for the poor; but this is not the circumstance in this place.

The Peatmore is a large tract of marshy ground, containing in its present reckoning about six hundred acres, fourteen of which, that lay convenient, have some years been improved into tolerable good land, as I suppose has happened heretofore to the Darnhursts, or Darnelhursts, a spot of thirty acres belonging to the lord of the manor, held with the Greenbury hill farm, lying towards Fotherley, on the extreme of the Peatmoor.

This Peatmoor hath undergone great alterations, being much drained by the present tenant, John Rawlins, who hath opened the old trenches, that are said to have been five yards deep, and made several large new ones very wide, and three yards deep, at a vast expence, notwithstanding he was eased by the gift of a considerable quantity of wood dug out of it, and used for cokes, or wood coal; he hath also made smaller cuts transversely, separated the moor into two parts, and planted such trees as are agreeable to the soil, which will not only be useful, and a fence, but give a more pleasing appearance to a wild and dreary heath, limiting which, on one side is a thick wood of twenty acres, full of timber, till a part was fallen a few years since, and now in a thriving state; but, being chiefly oaks, it is mostly encouraged for the under wood, being the property of William Tenant, esq.

We might here have spoken of various springs, under the second article of Natural History, but they are not valuable, on account of the ill quality they partake of in their passage, and seem only to increase the current of the Fotherley brook.

In these moorish places are dug up a kind of fir trees, which, besides other uses, are often split into thin pieces, or spils, and
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are used on common occasions as candles, and, from their turpentine quality, give a good light.

But of all the accidents that ever befel the trunks of trees, there is none more unaccountable than their being found in different places buried under ground, as in the Peatmore, the land of Mr. Rowland Fryth, of Thornes, in an inland country, therefore many have supposed they were carried here by the deluge, which seems a very idle story, as then we should have had them in other valleys as well as where they are found. Besides, such as are met with without their roots appear either to have been burnt asunder near the ground, or are found with the mark of the axe still remaining upon them by which they were severed from their stools, which are found standing in many places in the same posture as when the trees stood upon them, which has prevailed with others, who are satisfied with this, to think that this Moss wood (as they name it; from the moors or mosses in which it is buried) was originally beech or alder trees, that delight to grow in such moist places, which, being soaked so many years in a bituminous turf, may become at length so well impregnated, as to imitate fir both in smell and burning; which too are more agreeable to the sizes of those subterranean trees than firs are, there being few found above a foot diameter at the but-end, whereas firs grow even to two yards diameter sometimes. To which may be replied, that one reason why these trees are found so may be, that all now found is only the heart of the tree, which was much bigger before the sap was consumed, which may also be the reason why they are found so long. A reason for their lying thus covered in inland countries is given, that, not being natives of England, the firs were planted, here by the Danes and people of Norway, who, getting possession of this country, endeavoured to make it as much like their
own

own as they could, and planted these firs, which, after growing many years, either upon the massacre of that people under king Ethelred, or their final loss of dominion here after the death of king Hardicnute, that no memorial of them might remain, the trees they had planted there were cut down; and, as many of them as grew upon low moist lands, lying inconvenient for carrying away, were neglected, and in process of time were covered by alteration, those upon the hills and higher ground being long used. Farther, the low grounds, where they are now found, when they stood and flourished, in all probability were tolerably dry land; for, the trees whilst growing, notwithstanding the wet and moisture shot into the valleys then as at this time, continually spent it in their nourishment, and their as constant exhalations; but, when they were cut down, there being no way to expend it, the valleys at length grew into pools, the waters thereof being thickened with perpetual deterrations, or earth brought from the hills and higher grounds by showers in wet, and winds in dry weather, they came at last to be fens or mosses, thus covering the trees, which we take to be the origin of many of our mosses, though afterwards increased by new grass and sedge, annually growing upon the rottings of the old in the former year, and so onward. Such is Dr. Plott's account*.

This Peatmore, with the farm late Hardwick's, at the Boffes, on the extremities of the moor, with Greensbury Hill, the Whitages, a portion of land late ——— Dickenfon's, purchased by John Smyth, lord of this manor, and other premises to the amount of four hundred acres, or upwards, are in the tenure of John Rawlins, rented from March 25, 1772.

* History of Staffordshire, cap. 6.

In the morasses about Deeping, in Lincolnshire, are often dug up trunks of trees at two feet depth, such as firs and oaks, with their fruits, all at full perfection. This made the learned Dr. Shuckford think they had lain from the Flood, which he attempts to prove was in autumn.

As to the morasses in general, they seem to be a composition of leaves, seeds, flowers, stalks, roots of herbs, fruits, or shrubs, and, when become more close and ponderous, appear to be only a more perfect putrefaction; when it becomes black they are most bituminous and fittest for fuel. This seems to be nothing but the consummate putrefaction of the plants that grow on such places, as *Eleagnus*, *Ros Solis*, *Erica*, &c.

Ogley Hay, part of which is in Shenstone parish, in its whole circuit was very extensive, containing about two thousand seven hundred acres, bounded by lands called Bull moors, Hilton hamlet, the Stafford road, Catts hill, and Muckley corner. In the reign of queen Elizabeth it was granted to the family of lord Stafford, which passed it to the ancestor of lord Ducie Moreton, who sold it half freed * to several persons; at the same time we observe, that John Dolphyn, esq. had a twenty-fourth share separate from that so passed away. Edward Jackson, of Wall, gent, had two shares of the freehold, which he sold to Christopher Wood, of Norton, gent.

Dorothy, widow of — Quintyn, in the reign of Henry VIII. had a right of common pasture for all her estate, which passed to William Quintyn her son, in the reign of queen Elizabeth. I have seen an indenture, dated the 24th of May, in the 41st year of the reign of Elizabeth, between Edward Stanley, of Tonge, Salop, on the first part; Richard Jackson, of Clements

* Or in free copy.

inn, Middlesex, William Quyntyn, of Wall, Anne his wife, and Robert Quintyn his brother, on the second part; John Jackson, of Lichfield, tanner, and Thomas Turner of Kelmscote, Oxfordshire, on the third part; in which, for 200*l.* paid by William to Edward Stanley, and 50*l.* by Robert to the said Edward, Edward and Richard Jackson agreed to levy a fine to John Jackson and Thomas Turner, in a messuage and barns, with a pasture called Horse croft, also Lea field, a moor and dingle called Newland meadow, all in or near Wall; Newland Leycroft, Newland Leyfwood, with eighteen acres of arable land in Wall field, and common pasture on Ongley hay for all cattle, with all rights, late in the occupation of William Quintyn, of his father and mother; also a cottage, orchard, and garden, in Wall, held by William Langley, a field named Croft-a-green, a piece called Round hills, seven acres of arable land in Wall, with a meadow called Rakemore in Shenstone, held by Robert Quintyn, and common pasture on Ongley Hay; the fine to pass to Richard Jackson for life, next to William and Anne Quintyn his wife, remainder to William's heirs, remainder to Robert his brother, remainder to Thomas Webb and Margaret his wife, and her heirs, remainder to Roger Comerley, Anne his wife, and her heirs, the same to Anthony Spicer and his wife Elizabeth, the same to Edward Jackson, Isabel his wife, and heirs, remainder to Richard Sylvester, Dorothy his wife, and heirs, to Thomas Webb and Margaret his wife, and to William Quintyn's heirs for ever, reserving fealty, and a penny rent at Michaelmas for all services.

In another indenture other estates were passed from the afore-said Richard Jackson to Robert Quintyn, William his brother, Richard and Ellen Gibbons his wife, Anthony Spicer, and Elizabeth his wife, Roger Somerlay and Anne his wife, Edward Jackson

son and Isabel his wife, Richard Sylvester and Dorothy his wife, Thomas Webb and Margaret his wife, and the heirs of Robert Quintyn for ever; all confirmed by Edward Stanley, esq. or Sir George Vernon, knight. The chief rent and services were reserved to the lord of the fee, and the premises therein named were leased by Sir George Vernon to William Quintyn, deceased, son of William, Dorothy his wife, and William their son, for their lives; Edward Stanley, esq. was then seised of Sir George Vernon's part, and both confirmed this deed. Dated at Tonge, his manor house, 1599. Witneses John Lakyn, James Aftley, John Chadwick and, John Jackson.

In 1666, in the 18th year of the reign of king Charles II. was passed an indenture between John Green, of Great Bloxwich, and Mary his wife, John Darleston, of Wiggington, and Anne his wife, and Elizabeth Quintyn of Wall, on the one part; Richard Hinckley, of Lichfield, on the other; expressing, that Thomas Martyn, of Lichfield, sold to Richard Scott, of Great Barr in Aldrich, for 99 years, lands in Ongley Hay, and others in the Leet field in Lichfield, called the Burrow Copp, held by Humphry Tew, of Lichfield, gent. and others, but lately by Thomas Quintyn of Wall; and Richard Scott, in 1652, passed them, or his part, in 1658, to Thomas Martyn; Thomas Quintyn passed his share to his three daughters, Mary, Anne, and Elizabeth, as proved by Thomas Quintyn, his son and executor. John Green and Mary his wife, John Darlaston and Anne his wife, with Elizabeth their sister, discharged Richard Hinckley for 30l. who purchased the lands in the Leet field, paying 8d. yearly during the residue of the 99 years, *viz.* the land lying near the estate of Amon Perkyns, gent. and Sir Simon Weston, knight. To which deed were witneses Zachary Babyngton, George Mason, and Richard Baxter.

We now proceed to the account of Ogley aforesaid.

Fowke Hufsey, gent. had eight shares; — Worsey, of Rushall, one; all which, and others, to the number of twenty-three shares, Christopher Wood, of Norton, purchased; John Dolphyn's yet remaining to his heirs.

The leasehold shares were in Hufsey, Holland, and Huntbach, gents. and as chattels sold in chancery to Holland. Jane, relict of — Holland, passed them to Christopher Wood for 200l. He passed them for 230l. to Thomas Price, of Goscote near Walsall, who, within five years (about 1734), resold them to the same Charles Wood for 305l. at which date were re-conveyed to him the two parts belonging to Edward Jackson, for one hundred guineas. It has been observed, that the Hays of Staffordshire were sold, as of Cannoc wood, or the forest; but this must surely be meant only of such Hays as originally lay upon it. The earls of Uxbridge were superior lords over the lands of Sir Edward Lyttelton, lord Aston, and Sir William Wolseley, in this neighbourhood, with Whittington and Whittington heath, Norton, Wyrley, and also of Harbourn, Smethwick, Huntington, and Cannock.

John Smyth, esq. lord of Shenstone, endeavoured to make Ogley Hay a free warren, and for that end began a suit at law with Charles Wood and John Worsey, of Rushall, gents. but was obliged to give up the point.

Charles Wood, often mentioned, and Henry his brother, of Wolverhampton, with five daughters, one of whom was wife of the reverend Edward Tonge, of Aldrich; another of — Warwick, of Manchester; a third of —, father to —, wife of William Collins, of Aston, were the issue of the reverend Henry Wood, rector of Aldrich and Yarborough in Lincolnshire, prebendary of Lichfield, and sacrist of Wolverhampton.

Upon

Upon Ogley Hay, a few years since, was a rabbit-warren; and, in 1765, Richard Gildart, esq. who had then lately purchased the manors of Norton and Ogley, restocked it with rabbits, and now resides in or near Norton.

Many persons of Lynne, Upper Stonall, Wall, and Pipe hill, in right of their messuages claim a liberty of pasture for sheep, without limitation; paying eight-pence yearly for these messuages. The arrears had not been demanded for 33 years, till 1765, when Richard Gildart levied thirteen years payment in lieu of the whole.

The soil varies according to the improvements made upon it, though a great part of Ogley is of a dry and sandy nature; I have introduced it here, because it has chiefly been the property of persons who have had little connexion with the parish of Shensstone.

On the common adjoining is a vast quantity of little white stones, and the ground so covered is of such a compass, that they appear as if they were an hail storm; greater still would be their appearance if the land were thinly turfed as they seem to be formed, or grow on or near the surface.

Fourthly, we speak of F I R E,

under which I must note that of the elements. In June, 1764, upon a Sunday in the last hot summer, was terrible thunder and lightning, which filled every house to the most dreadful appearance. Many were carried out of their rooms and beds to parts of them that were supposed less dangerous, though to all appearance in the midst of flames; yet I do not recollect that

that any persons were burnt. In the intervals of the flashes it was very dark ; in the fields and roads the lightning seemed to run upon the ground. The whold day preceding was extremely sultry to people of our climate. Joseph Elde lost one ox by the flames, and another was so injured as never after to thrive. Moses Collins of Hilton and others had thirty-three sheep killed together in one direction, as if scorched on one side of their heads.

Of fuel are turf and peat, and unquestionably coal, at least in the neighbourhood. Of the former no use is made, I mean for this purpose. Of coals we have plenty at four miles distance, at Brown hills on Cannoc. Good coals are also brought from the works of — Hufley, of Little Worley, esq. — Vernon, of Hilton, esq. Effington Wood, and Wednesbury, which being tolerably cheap, there is less occasion for peat as a fuel, though it might be got in plenty, especially on Sutton chace and Sutton park.

At Little Aston Dr. Plott * found curious hollies bearing leaves prettily edged with yellow, of the same colour with those in the physic garden at Oxford. These were cut down by Humphry Minchin, esq. as giving an air of gloominess.

Dr. Plott observes from the worthy Mr. Fryth of Thornes hall, of whom he learnt some account of herbs, that about Shenstone they frequently used *Erica Vulgaris*, Heath or Ling, instead of hops, to preserve their beer, which gave no ill taste, and that sometimes they malted oats, which, mixed with barley malt, was called dredge malt, of which they make an excellent quick fresh sort of drink. How it might be in his days we cannot say, but we find no such custom at present, either in embittering their drink, or mixing their malt.

* Natural History of Staffordshire, cap. 6.

In Cannoc, near which Shenstone is situate, and out of which it was taken, if not on Sutton chace, is found excellent game, as grouse, woodcocks, and snipes, in abundance, with partridges and hares. In Shenstone too would be plenty of hares and partridges, if both gentry and poachers did not equally conspire to prevent it.

The rivers in the parish are noted for exquisite trout, and good pike; gudgeons and chub were heretofore more plentiful.

The land tax, in 1765, at 4s. in the pound, amounted to 101l. 13s. 4d. The levies to the poor, a few years since came to about 120l. yearly.

In October, 1769, Shenstone parish was surveyed by Joseph Wadams and Joseph Swift, churchwardens; James Rawlins and Thomas Woolley, overseers, and valued at 4240l.

Of P L A N T S we have occasionally spoken.

As of the *Erica Vulgaris*.

We find also the *Narcissus Silvestris Pallidus*, wild English Daffodil.

The *Millefolium aquaticum foliis fœniculi*, fennel-leaved water Crowsfoot.

The *Vitis Idea thymi foliis*, Moss berries, or Moor berries.

The *Muscus multiformiter pyxidatus capitibus coccineis*, scarlet headed chalice moss; a beautiful plant in its flourishing condition; the cups are set round with scarlet eminences about as big as pins' heads. This, or a moss equally beautiful, is found on Broad heath.

The

The *Sambucus fructu albo*, white berried elder, as I have been informed.

In the parish are five seats for gentry, as Shenstone hall, Shenstone park, the Moss, Footherley, and Aston halls.

At the distance of one mile is Swynfen; at five Fisherwick, the seat of Arthur marquis of Denegal; at six Drayton Bassett, of the marquis of Bath; at seven lord Middleton's; at four Sir Robert Lawley's of Cannal; at five Thomas Hoo's, of Barr; at three lord Irnham's of Four Oaks; at two Ralph Floyer of Hintz; and many others near Lichfield, Sutton Colefield, and Birmingham; so that on the whole Shenstone is a desirable situation.

September 22, 1774.

Of Shenstone we observe, that during the troubles in the reign of king Charles I. it was much harrassed by the garrisons of Stafford and Rushall house, and protected or oppressed as Lichfield was or was not in the Royalists hands. In general the gentry were loyal, as we have instanced in the families of Ducey, Bolver, and Adcocks. In 1644 the parish was ordered to pay its weekly assessment, as settled by the Stafford committee, with Cannal, Weeford, and Drayton, at least those parts of it that were in their power, to George Bowes and Thomas Willington, captains of horse.

To the Pendrels, or their heirs, as descended from those of the name who were instrumental in the preservation of king Charles II. are paid, by various tenants in the parish, certain crown rents, amounting to 4l. 10s. 4½d., being in reality part of the Moss house revenues, at the half yearly value, to which we add the half yearly payment for the rectory of Shenstone

from Noel Hill, esq. viz. 2l. 19s. 7d. and 7½d. as paid separately by the late Samuel Hill, esq. also 2l. 10s. for Alcott mill.

Thus I have, as far as was in my power, given an account of Shenstone, and with as much fidelity as possible, to 1774; yet alterations do frequently happen in so large a parish, but, if any thing material hath fallen out, we may note it in an addition.

Laus Deo! September 24, 1774.

A P P E N D I X.

Watling street is one of the four great Roman roads * from one end of the land to the other, leading from Dover to Chester. Sometimes these four roads, by way of eminence, are called streets, Basilical streets, the Prætorian, Consular, and Military ways. This, named the Watling street, cometh out of Warwickshire into this county, remaining, generally speaking, high and good, being very little decayed or injured, either by time or the plough; it enters at Fafeley bridge, runs by Hintz, Weeford, near Shenstone park, by Swynfen, towards Wall, which it divides into two parts, one belonging to Lichfield, the other to Shenstone, thence near Frog hall by Occamly pits to Knaves or Knute's castle, which an antiquary thinks were made for raising this streetway from East South East to West North West as far as Four Crosses. There

* Robert, monk of Gloucester.

it turns a little, and bears somewhat near the West, about West and by North, and so enters Shropshire near Sheriff Hales and Crackley Bank, passing through to Chester, but, as others say *, into the farthest part of Wales.

That Watling street was a work of the Romans is not to be doubted. Whilst Agricola (saith Tacitus) governed Britain, several ways were enjoined, and far distant places, by the surveyor's commandment, that the country should carry from the nearest camp, or wintering places, to those that were far off and out of the way; and the Britains complained that the Romans wore out and consumed their bodies in clearing of woods and paving the fens, with a thousand stripes and reproachful indignities.

We read in antient records †, that, in the days of Honorius and Arcadius, there were made in Britain certain beaten ways from sea to sea ‡.

Bede says §, these were the Romans' work. The Romans inhabited within the wall which Severus had made overthwart the island, towards the Southern side, which the cities, churches, and street-ways, there made, do witness at this day.

From this road was the name of *Wattlebury* in Salop, on which this village stands; and that antient city *Verulam*, near St. Alban's, called in the Saxons time *Wetlinga ceaster*, as appeared by king Ethelred's charter granting lands to the monastery of St. Alban's in 926.

Great was the cost and labour in carrying of stones, gravel, and sand, for the making those ways firm and lasting, as may

* Radulphus Cestrensis.

† Dugdale's Warwickshire, p. 6.

‡ Camden.

§ Ecclesiastical History, cap. 11.

yet be seen in divers parts, where the soil itself within many miles affords no such materials.

It hath been observed, that near St. Alban's, in digging the ground where this way antiently went, gravel and sand hath been found ten feet deep in the earth, and eighteen feet broad, with great flint stones in the bottom, such as are supposed at first to have been on the top thereof. We are told, that Augustus Cæsar, and other chief men among the Romans, were appointed by the senate to be officers to take care of these roads. Dugdale adds, that the Ædiles sometimes took charge of them, as appears by the emperor Caligula's causing the Ædile vestment of Flavius Vespasian to be stuffed with dirt, because he executed that office negligently; and sometimes that employment was committed to the Questors.

The Romans made particular laws for the preservation of those roads, and committed them to the protection of the Gods, called *Lares Viales*.

These ways were in great account among the Saxons, as appears by the laws of St. Edward, touching the peace of the four road ways; and the statutes of Marlborough forbid distresses on those highways.

To sum up what we mean to say on this head, we observe, that these highways for the marching of armies, and passage of carriages, as well as for their security in countries abounding with woods, were made at first of large stakes, and lesser wood woven between them, to keep up the earth and stones laid between, called by the Saxons *wattles*, whence this road is since called *Watling street*. It enters Salop near Boninghale, and thence passing by Wellington goes through the antient station called *Uriconium* or *Wroxeter*, an old city, formerly three miles in circumference, built on a foundation of pebble stones three

yards thick, the metropolis say some*, the second city as others †, of the *Cornavii*. The streetway, a little way from this city, leads either through a ford or over a bridge; hence it goes to Acton Burnel, then to the three Street Towns, or Strettons, and so on to Lenterdine in Herefordshire, near which was the Roman fortification or camp, called *Old Branodunium*; so into Wales, through the middle of which province it passes to Cardigan, where it ends.

ICKENILD STREET.

Opinions differ as to this way, therefore I shall note what is said on the best authorities.

Though the Romans are ages since departed from this isle, yet they have left behind them some things memorable, of which the most considerable are their public ways, which, though now broken and discontinued by various accidents and length of time, have such large tracts remaining, that, by an easy conjecture, they may be discovered to satisfaction.

They were of two sorts; first, Basilical, consular, or prætorian; because all misdemeanors committed in them came under the cognizance of the king himself only. They were called by William the Conqueror *Chemini Majores*, the greater ways,

* Camden.

† Burton.

from

from the French word *Chemin*, a way; and of this fort there were but four in England, Watling street, Erming street, the Fosse, and Ikenild street, two of which ran through the island from sea to sea, and two the breadth. Secondly, the Vicinal ways, which lead from colony to colony, city to city, and borough to borough. All misdemeanors committed upon these ways fell under the cognizance of the earl, who was the chief military governor. *Chemini Minores*, or the lesser ways; of which kind are those near Alcester or Aldchester, and the road *Ad Pontes*, or Colebrook, with the Akeman street beforementioned.

The Iceni inhabited Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, and Huntingdonshires, with the Isle of Ely*, and were so named from *Iken*, in British, a wedge, because their country lay along the ocean in the form of a wedge. But this will hardly account for the name among the *Cateuchlani* and *Cornavii*, the inhabitants of Warwick and Staffordshires. I have indeed seen the remark of some author, that there was a strong people named the Iceni, near or between the rivers Severn or Avon.

There is a great road called Ikeneld street in Oxfordshire, Bucks, and Berkshire; but the greatest and true Ikenild way has been disputed. In these counties it was not cast up in a ridged bank, or laid out by a deep trench, as others were, because it lies in Oxfordshire, under the Chiltern hills, on a firm fast ground, having the hills themselves as a sufficient direction, and seems to come from Norfolk and Suffolk, the dominions of the Iceni.

Ickenild street, one of the old Roman military consular and prætorian highways, crosses the county of Stafford only in the hundred of Offlow. It remains high and lofty, as the Watling

* Speed and Camden,

street does, which, as we noted, crosses Staffordshire and the parish of Shenstone another way, and is but little decayed. It seems to be raised after a different method from those in other countries, not by digging a deep trench to lay a firm foundation, and then making a high ridge upon it, but by casting up the gravel on each side, as appears plainly at Little Aston. This cannot be the same with that of Oxfordshire, for that is so called only because it tends towards the Iceni in Norfolk and Suffolk; but this is so named because it passes through the country of the Iceni between the Avon and the Severn; for, Tacitus mentions the Iceni in both places; and Dr. Plott says, he takes this Ikenild street to be one of the great Roman highways, and not that in Oxfordshire, because this is paved in some places, and very signal almost in all places where it goes, which that in Oxfordshire is not, an intimation, that the Iceni of these parts were the most considerable people.

One antiquary * observes, that Strethay, or Streetway, of which the village of Strethey is named, is an ancient Roman road that passeth by Lichfield, and is called the Ikenild. That it gives name to Stretton, near Burton upon Trent, and came through Little Chester, by Derby, a Roman colony, and, as he takes it, ends at Portsmouth. The causeway is plain to be seen upon Egington heath, and Alrewas Hay; it leaves Burton also, and goes over the commons directly from Branston to Monk's bridge, crosses the Dove at that place, thence passeth over Burton moor, and over the Trent at Whichnovre, thence over Alrewas Hay to Strethey and Wall.

This highway comes from Tinemouth in Northumbeland †, through Yorkshire to Bolsover; thence by Chesterfield, through

* Sir Simon Degge.

† Dugdale.

Scarfsdale,

Scarsdale, passes over Morley moor to Little Chester near Derby, and so over to Eggington heath, crossing the Dove at Monk's bridge, then over Burton moor, and passeth the Trent at Whichnover bridge, stretching through Alderwas Hays, thence to Street-hey, and so to Wall (anciently called *Etocetum*) where it crosses Watling street, thence over Radley moor; leaving Little Aston on the right hand it entereth the lordship of Sutton, and so extendeth itself to Alcester in Warwickshire; thence over Bitford bridge (leaving Cambden in Gloucestershire a little on the left hand), to Stowe on the Wolds, where it crosses the Fosseway, from Stow bridge to Burford, and over Isis at New bridge directly to Wallingford, and so through Winchester to Southampton. Particularly in respect to Shenstone parish, it enters it on the way from Sutton park to Little Aston, and leans by the old stables belonging to Aston hall, thence through the village to Radley moor, Fotherley house, the Ashcrofts, Chesterfield, and crosses the Watling-street, a quarter of a mile from Wall, to Strethey and Stretton, near Burton as aforesaid.

Having been favoured with a list of the people in this parish, who resided in 1667, in the reign of king Charles II. I have ventured to give it, as it may be agreeable to the present inhabitants, and point out to some of them their ancestors, and by comparison shew what alterations have happened amongst them.

This list is the copy of an assessment of the tenth quarterly assessment for the aid of king Charles II. signed and sealed June

11, by his Majesty's justices of the peace, John Wyrley and John Perfehouse, esqrs.

Shenstone Constablewick.

	£.	s.	d.
John Brandreth, esq. for Syl- vester's house and Wal- ford's	1	17	9
Edward Lake, esq.	0	14	0
Thomas Warde, esq.	1	11	6
John Brown, gent. and Oli- ver, for Pool bridge mea- dow and mills	0	8	0½
Wollaston, gent. for part of Greenhalls	1	9	0
John Collyer for Greenhalls	1	10	0½
Dolphyn	0	7	0
Greifbroke	0	1	4½
and for Floyer			
Henry Smyth, gent.	0	7	0
John Broadhurst	0	2	4
John Nevil	0	1	5½
John Lea	0	2	11
Thomas Nevil	0	3	7
James Moseley	0	5	3½
Clay, widow	0	0	8½
Richard Ingram	0	0	10½
William Wyatt			
John Crefwell	0	3	6
William Cooper	0	0	8½
John Cook	0	1	5½
Ann Cooke, widow	0	2	4
Rowland Sylvester	0	2	5½
Henry Ashmole	0	0	10½
Weston, widow	0	0	7½
Jackson			
Rowland Stanley			
William Hollyland	0	0	10½
John Sylvester	0	0	10½
John Malkyn			
Walter Rawlins			
Ralph Thickbroome			
Nicolas Thornton			

£. s. d.

Rowland Alfop			
Sylvester, widow			
Brown			
John Smart			
Humphry Heath			
Thomas Potte, gent.			
William Bartlett	0	2	5½

Aston.

Richard Ducey, esq.	0	11	3
Birch, widow, and			
John Birch	0	7	1½
Sedgwick, widow			
Henry Sedgwick, gent.	0	7	1½
John Darby			
Bayley, widow	0	4	4½
John Cooke	0	1	4½
Cooke, widow	0	1	4½
John Payne	0	1	7½
Thomas Adams	0	1	1
William Burnes	0	1	5½
Richard Ingram	0	0	7
John Cox	0	3	10
Bradshaw			
Robert Collins			
Best			
William Watson			
Thomas Foley, esq. and the Forge	0	12	6½

Fotherley.

Thomas Foley, esq.			
John Brown, gent.	0	3	6
William Grace, clerk	0	5	3
Grendon	0	4	11
John			

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
John Collier	0	6	1½	John Lane			
Roger and Joseph Adam	0	3	0	John Nevil			
—— Sylvester, widow,				William Perry	0	0	10½
and George Sylvester	0	2	0	Thomas Quintyn, gent.	0	5	0
Nicolas Wyatt	0	0	10½	William Quintyn	0	3	0
James Fletcher	0	5	10½	—— Best	0	3	0½
William and Edw. Thornton	0	6	6½	—— Fryth's Bullmoors	0	0	7
—— Priest, widow, and							
William Priest	0	5	6½	—— Swynfen, esq. Hill			
Thomas Wyatt	0	4	2½	Hall, and inhabitants	2	14	1

Wood End.

James Sylvester	0	2	0
John Cotterel	0	2	4
—— Smyth, widow, and			
William Smyth	0	2	5½
—— Sylvester, widow, and			
James Sylvester	0	2	7½
John Sylvester	0	3	0
—— Yardley, gent.	0	2	2½
Nicolas Allen	0	0	8½
—— Fletcher			
James and George Sylvester,			
for the Durstall, or Durn-			
hall	0	3	6

Chesterfield.

James Allen, gent.	0	8	3½
John Jackson, gent.	0	5	10
—— Bowring	0	1	0
Richard Smyth	0	1	3½
—— Clarke			
John Watfon	0	1	5½
John Heeley	0	2	0½

Wall.

William Dutton, gent.	0	5	11
Henry Jackson, gent.	0	4	8

Over Stonall and Hilton.

Thomas Reading	0	4	8
Hamlet Reading	0	1	5½
Thomas Collier	0	0	10½
Thomas Heatley	0	1	2
—— Forden			
John Speed			
John Barton	0	0	7
William Edjial			
William and John Sylvester	0	1	7½
Robert Sylvester	0	1	7½
Thomas Reading	0	1	2
Robert Reading	0	0	8½
John Jennings	0	0	7½
William Reading			
Edward Reading			
Simon Parkes	0	0	5½
John Bankes	0	1	10

Thornes.

William Stanley	0	1	9
Rowland Serjeant	0	2	4
Humphry Edjial	0	2	4
James Best	0	1	3½
—— Wyatt, widow	0	0	7
—— Bayley, widow			
Richard Salt	0	1	9

Roger Bulkley
Z z

Poor's

A COPY of another ASSESSMENT

For ASTON, FOOTHERLEY, and SYWNFEN.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Aston.				Roger and John Adams	0	6	0
Richard Ducey, esq.	1	0	10	— Sylvester, widow, and			
— Birch, widow, and				George	0	3	6
John her son, for Best's				Nicolas Wyatt for Bullaries	0	1	9
and Sedgewick's field land	0	12	6	James Fletcher	0	10	3
— Sedgewick, widow,				William and Edward Thorn-			
and Henry Sedgewick, for				ton	0	11	3
Best's meadow and Cook's				— Priest, widow, and			
field land	0	12	6	William	0	9	6
— Darby, — Bay-				Thomas Wyatt	0	7	3
ley, widow, — Cook,				James Sylvester	0	4	0
widow	0	7	6	John Cotterell	0	3	6
John Cook	0	4	9	— Smyth, widow, and			
John Payne	0	2	10	William	0	4	3
William Burnes	0	2	6	— Sylvester, widow, and			
Thomas Adams	0	2	0	James	0	4	6
John Cox for Bradshaw's	0	8	3	John Sylvester	0	0	6
Best's house	0	0	3	— Yardley, gent.	0	3	9
Robert Collins	0	0	4	Nicolas Allen	0	1	3
William Walton				James and George Sylvester			
Thomas Foley, esq. for Aston				for Durstall or Darnells	0	6	0
Forge	0	6	0				
				Swynfen.			
Foottherley.				John Swynfen, esq. and te-			
Thomas Foley, esq. for the				nants, John Porter, gent.			
Boffes	0	15	0	for Hill Hall	5	8	5
John Brown, gent.	0	6	0	Thomas Warde,			
Ditto for Perry field	0	1	0	John Dolphyn,			
William Grace, gent.	0	9	0	John Darby,			
Ditto for Grendon's land	0	5	0	Thomas Dicken'son,			
John Collyer	0	10	6				

} Assessors.

A List of the INHABITANTS that paid the POLL-TAX
in 1692, in the Reign of King WILLIAM III. Each paid
One Shilling, even Servants.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Anne Brandreth —	0	1	0	Joseph Alsop and wife —	0	2	0
— Brandreth, esq.	1	8	0	John Johnson —	0	1	6
Servants				Rowland Lea —	0	1	0
Edward Lake, senr. —	1	1	0	Edward Broadhurst —	0	1	0
Edward Lake, junr. esq.	1	1	0	Robert Pretty and wife	0	2	0
His wife —	0	1	0	Thomas Alsop —	0	1	0
Servants				Joseph Carter —	0	1	0
Thomas Ward and wife	0	2	0	— Aldrich, widow, and			
Alexander Ward —	1	1	0	maid —	0	3	0
wife and child	0	2	0	Thomas Cotterel and wife	0	2	0
Servants				John Yardley and wife —	0	2	0
John Dolphyn, senr. —	0	1	0	Thomas Grace —	0	1	0
John Dolphyn, Junr. attorney				Rowland Collyns, wife, and			
at law —	0	1	0	child —	0	3	0
— wife and two children	0	3	0	James Sylvester and wife	0	2	0
Servants				two servants —	0	2	0
Robert Grace, vicar, wife, and				Benjamin Collier, wife, and child	0	3	0
two children —	0	4	0	servant —	0	1	0
Rowland Sylvester —	0	1	0	Edward Thomson and wife	0	2	0
Dorothy Smyth and two sons	0	3	0	James Adams, wife, and two			
Jonathan Ashmole —	0	1	0	children —	0	4	0
— Barford, widow	0	1	0	James Philips and wife —	0	2	0
Rowland Greenhall and wife	0	2	0	James Fletcher and man	0	2	0
Richard Bull, wife, and child	0	3	0	Edward Thornton, wife, and			
Robert Griesbrooke —	0	1	0	two sons —	0	4	0
— wife and two children	0	3	0	William Priest, wife, and child	0	3	0
William Cooke and wife	0	2	0	Sarah Wyatt, widow —	0	1	0
John Cooke —	0	1	0	Edward Milner —	0	1	0
William Collier —	0	1	0	Joseph Hall —	0	1	0
Richard Ingram —	0	1	0	Richard Walker and wife, two			
two servants —	0	2	0	children, and one servant	0	5	0
				William			

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
William Smyth and wife, and two servants —	0	4	0	James and Thomas Milner	0	2	0
William Wyatt and wife	0	2	0	John Hall and wife —	0	2	0
James Sedgewick and wife, and three children —	0	3	0	William Steel —	0	1	0
Thomas Careless and wife, one man —	0	2	0	— Smyth, widow	0	1	0
Humphry Shenstone and wife	0	1	0	Edward Hanley and servant	0	2	0
— Cooke, widow —	0	1	0	George Hodgetts —	0	1	0
William Bagnal and wife	0	2	0	John Jackson and family	0	4	0
one maid —	0	1	0	William Hall and wife —	0	2	0
Joseph Colman, wife, and two sons —	0	4	0	William Milner, wife, and child	0	3	0
William Brisborn, wife, and child —	0	3	0	James Hanley, wife, and child	0	3	0
George Jackson and wife	0	2	0	Thomas Salt, wife, and child	0	3	0
William Hardwick, wife, and two children —	0	4	0	— Mother —	0	1	0
Mrs. Brown and four servants	0	5	0	— Stanley, widow, and son —	0	2	0
— Fryth, esq.	0	2	0	Thomas Dickenson and wife	0	2	0
two servants —	0	2	0	John Dickenson and wife	0	2	0
Richard Wright and wife	0	2	0	servant —	0	1	0
Robert Sylvester —	0	1	0	Richard Greaves —	0	1	0
John Bartlet, wife, and child	0	3	0	Alexander Adcock, wife, and child —	0	3	0
one servant —	0	1	0	John Adcock and wife —	0	2	0
John Smyth, wife, and two children —	0	4	0	two children —	0	2	0
John Sylvester —	0	1	0	John Wadams and wife —	0	2	0
— Sylvester, junr. and wife —	0	2	0	John Swynfen, esq. —	1	1	0
John Edjial —	0	1	0	Mary Swynfen —	1	1	0
Richard Bull and wife —	0	2	0	Francis Swynfen, wife, and six children —	1	8	0
William Reading and wife	0	2	0	two grandchildren —	0	2	0
George Hawe —	0	1	0	seven servants —	0	7	0
William Bond —	0	1	0	— Porter, widow, three children, and one servant	0	5	0
John Bayley —	0	1	0	Thomas Wadshaw and wife	0	2	0
Richard Tedd —	0	1	0	two children —	0	2	0
Thomas Tudor, wife and child	0	3	0	Joseph Taylor, wife, and two children —	0	4	0
Joseph Gregg and wife —	0	2	0	— Collyns, widow, and son —	0	2	0
George Thornton —	0	1	0	one servant —	0	1	0
Samuel Moor —	0	1	0	Thomas Parker —	0	1	0
Thomas Reading and wife	0	2	0	Edward Marlow —	0	1	0
				Thomas Wilkyns, wife, and child —	0	3	0

Michael

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Michael Brandreth, esq.	1	1	0	John Brown, gent.	—	1	1	0
—— charge for the militia				This list and assessment was signed April				
horse —	0	10	0	4, 1692, by the king's Commissioners,				
John Swynfen, esq. for half				Henry Gough,				
a horse —	—	0	10	0	John Whitwick,			
Rowland Fryth, esq.	—	1	1	0	Michael Brandreth, and			
—— for half a horse	0	5	0	Rowland Fryth, esqrs.				

Shenstone Bells were cast in 1704, by Joseph Smyth, of Edge-
baston. Their Weight is as follows :

	Cwt.	qrs.	lb.
First Bell	5	1	1
Second	5	2	8
Third	6	2	25
Fourth	7	1	16
Fifth	9	3	11
	34	3	5

It was the superstition of dark ages to fancy, that bells derived a power of dispersing tempests, supposed to be raised by evil spirits, from their baptizing them, which was performed with a great deal of shew and ceremony. The natural cause, the vibration of the air by the sound, was little in their thoughts.

Ringling of bells was held a remedy against tempests. In 1573, the elector of Saxony issued an order against ringing for
6 the

the conjuring of tempests. This custom in Papistical times, by an horrible abuse of Christ's sacred institution, gave occasion to the baptizing of bells, as if thereby they were endued with a power over hail and storms.

Bells were used at Sens and Paris in the days of king Clotharius, who died in 561.

Bell baptism was condemned by the emperor Charles the Fat, who died in 881; yet pope John XIV. sanctified it by his example, baptizing a new bell in the Lateran steeple by the name of John's Bell

In the middle ages baptizing them was attended with much festivity, both in the towns and villages, and was of too great moment to be performed by a suffragan, or common priest; the godfathers, who were unlimited, and chosen out of the most wealthy, gave grand entertainments; and this festival was closed with all kinds of licentious mirth.





ADDENDA & CORRIGENDA.

- Page 1, line 1, add a note, "*Scerteſtan*, or rather *Sceoteſtan*, is poſſibly Shuſhton in Cudleſton, where Domeſday puts *Sceoteſtan*."
- 3, for "Sweeford Hill," read "Weeford Hill."
- line 21, read "famous Barr beacon, belonging to Aldrich (a manor which is, or was once, ſubordinate to another), called the manor of Barr and Aldrich."
- 5, for "Hangewich," read "Hammerwich chapel."
- 8, lines 17 and 18, read "by the founder, Robert lord D'Oyley, which churches."
- lines 24 and 26, read "charter of lord Henry D'Oyley, with the conſent of Robert his brother."
- 12, laſt line but one, for "Tuntall," read "Tunſtall."
- 14, line 19, for "Coſton," read "Coſton."
- 19, line 1, read "Joan, ſole wife."
- 31, 21, read "Agard."
- 36, for "Maviſton," read "Maveſyn Ridware;" and for "Whichmore," read "Whichnor."
- 37, line 11, for "Michael Biddle," read "Michael Biddulph."
- 38, for "Alrewys," read "Alrewas."
- 41, line 21, read "John Noble and Jane Brandreth."
- 42, lines 14 and 15, dele "his grandfather."
- 46, 11, 12, 17, read "John Eggington," "Jane Littleton," "John Haughton," "Richard Wake, quere Wakefield."
- line 21, read "Hey, eſq. one of whoſe ſons iſ Thomas Hey, D. D. of Wickham, Kent; and another, William, a counſellor at law, and (1787) a commiſſioner of the cuſtoms."
- 47, line 4, read "eſq. ſon of Sir Robert." [to agree with page 35].
- 5, for "Richard Colton of Hamſtall Redware," read "Richard Cotton of Hamſtall Ridware;" and ſo likewiſe read "Cotton" for "Colton" in ſeveral other lines.
- line 7, for "Coilſton," read "Boilſton."

- Page 49, lines 8 and 9, read "and the park. The said lord had summons."
 57, last line, dele "and Margaret Whitehall."
 69, line 2, after "years," read "to."
 70, To the first note add, "In p. 69, Rowland Woodward Hill, rector of Forncett, &c. is supposed to be second son to Thomas Harwood."
 71, lines 12 and 15, read "Northampton, now of New Lodge, near Berkhamstead,"——"Brearley."
 lines 30 and 33, read, "Eleanor, his cousin-german."—"Charles Chadwick Sacheverell, late of New Hall, Warwickshire, esq."
 77, line 8, read "deceased."
 78, 25, read "Samuel, Simon, Ralph."
 83, 25 and 26, read "James Skrymsher and Elizabeth Colyere were ancestors of the Norbury branch of Skrymsher."
 100, line 3, for "1565," read "1665;" line 9, for "Trecot," read "Trescot;" and line 22, for "1767," read "1667."
 101, for "Bloxwick," read "Bloxwich."
 102, lines 3 and 4, read "Finborough,"——line 22, for "Stafford," read "Statfold."
 The Everard pedigree, 107, 108, is violently suspected, from many concurring circumstances, to belong wholly to Shenton, Leicestershire. See Burton, and Wolferstan pedigree at the College at Arms. Whether Thomas Wolfrestan was of Weeford, or what other residence, after he left Culpho near Ipswich, we should be glad of information.
 116, line 22, for "Clinters," read "Clinton."
 122, 10 and 11, the arms are unintelligible.
 124, 20, dele "of heregeats, or heriots and reliefs."
 125, 25, for "£.5," read "£.15."
 127, 3, 7, and 9, read "piece of plate."—"Samuel Beardsley."—"Elizabeth Beardsley."
 129, line 15, for "Hamerwick," read "Hammerwich."
 134, 7, read "first vicar of Tanworth church in Warwickshire, after it was appropriated."
 22, dele "49th year of the reign of king Edward III."
 25 and 26, read "Richard Dolfyn became vicar of Tanworth. Another Richard, dying 1593, was"
 137, lines 21, 22, and 25, read "Arley."—"Perrot, of Belne Hall."—"Mellor."
 141, 21 and 24, read "left Ralph."——"purchased by him of Edward Basset, esq. son of Thomas, of Barton Bakepurs in the county of Derby, afterwards of Hynts."
 lines 25 and 29, read "at least twice."—"Without issue. (Q) Lastly, Elizabeth, daughter of William Noel, of Kirkby, relict of Ralph Adderley, of Alrewas, and mother to Sir Charles Adderley, of Hamms.

- Hamms. She died in 1661. His son, Richard Floyer, of Hynts, married a Babyngton, and was justice."
- Page 142, lines 3 and 4, read "aid. Richard Floyer had issue Matthew, who had, among many other children, a daughter."
 lines 10 and 13, "John of Hynts), father by Susanna Willington."
 —"besides whom Charles had issue Charles, Sacheverell, Mary, and Catharine."
 line 29, read "Ley, of Mayfield or Matherfield."
- 143, 1 and 13, "Thomas Ley, counsellor at law, also of Mayfield in"
 —"of Longdon."
- 147, lines 9 and 15, read "Hints, where he died, 16th November, 1793. Before Charles Floyer."—"Floyer's family."
- 157, line 22, read "Faseley in Staffordshire."
- 158, 26, read "Moreton Slaney's."
- 161, 16, read "had issue Thomas, who had issue Thomas, who had issue Richard."
- 162, lines 3 and 5, "Edward of Longdon, who died,"—"Statfold"
 7, dele "1772."
 10, 11, 12, add a note, "Impossible, if she died in 1741, she should have been wife of this William, who could scarcely have a daughter born even so late as 1653."
 lines 14 and 17, add a note, "Q. some confusion here? for, Edward, who is at top made nephew to this Edmund, of Longdon, esq. married A. Wolfrestan as early as 13th November, 1662."
 line 18, "Edmund, son of A. Wolfrestan, married, 3d March, 1697, Miss Littleton, daughter to Edward Littleton, esq. of Pilaten Hall, and had issue Edward, born in January."
- 173, lines 19, 24, and 27, read "Phineas Fowke, M.D."—"Sybil was wife of Joseph Hufsey, of London, who had by her Fowke Hufsey."—"Which Fowke became in right."
- 175, lines 8 and 9, read "of Richard Pype, of Bilston in the county of Stafford, son of Thomas Pype, of Bilston, esq."
- 177, Conel, read "Coften;" and to the first note add "But the epitaph in page 14 *ante* is positive."
- 178, To the first note add, "From which we have here a consistent account; whereas pages 176 and 177 are contradictory both to Collins (though appealed to) and themselves; and quite unintelligible."
- 179, line 21, for "Wiltriston," read "Wilbrighton."
- 180, 6, for "Dickers," read "Dickens."
- 183, 24, 28, and 30, read "Lampport,"—"esq. who by Mary,"
 —"esq. hath issue Andrew."
- 192, for "Gorseot," read "Gorscot."
- 194, line 6, for "sister," read "aunt."

- Page 207, line 11, read "three quarters of a mile south of the great Roman"
 214, 11 and 17, for "Cane" read "Canc."
 219, 6 and 8, read "road from Birmingham and Aston Parva, through Mill Green,"—"over Lyndon Green, and so to Stafford."
 239, line 13, read "to John Walhouse, second son of Moreton Walhouse."
 245, 22, read "of Tamworth, related to Thomas Guy, who founded"
 258, 29, for "Cumberfold," read "Cumberford."
 265, 3, 11, read "son of Fowke Hufley."—"Dorrington."
 269, 13, read "another."
 289, 19 and 20, add a note, "Certainly at least as early as 13 Henry IV. (vol. II. Topographer, p. 12.)"—dele "Erdswic."
 line 24, for "Swynfeald," read "Swynfen."
 28 and 30, "Arthur Swinfen, of this family, had issue a daughter Elizabeth, wife of John Dugdale. esq. of the family of Clitherow, Lancashire, father by her of Sir William."
 290, line 6, for "Hillot," read "Hilcot."
 293 21, for "Staffordshire," read "Derbyshire."
 294, 14, 16, and 23, read "sold to Samuel Hill,"—dele "old"
 —"was (after his father — of Appleby) heir."
 lines 26 and 28, read "and, about 1767, married Mary, daughter of William Abney, of Tamworth, esq. and hath issue Samuel, and another son. He hath also issue by a second wife, sister to Sir Francis Ferd, baronet."
 295, line 29, read "per chevron, Sable and Argent, in chief, three leopards heads of the second."
 298, line 20, *Sbenstone* is not written *Scertestane* either in ancient deeds or Domesday-book, but *Senestan*.
 line 23, *Scelfstone*, in Domesday, is what is now called *Shelton*, in the Pottery, in the hundred of Pirehill, though placed in Cudleston in that curious Record, which is FREQUENTLY confused as to the hundreds.
 304, lines 1, 2, 14, read "which old fees he paid £21. 11s. 1d. in the 14th"—"of Henry II.; the rest, viz. seventy-one," "the manor of Bradenham."
 311, lines 1 and 3, *Sbenstone* is again erroneously called *Scertestan*, and Leonilde misprinted.

At the conclusion of Domesday for this county, it is said, that Levild, one of the king's thanes, held *Sceotestan* in Cudleston hundred, which cannot now, perhaps, be ascertained. However, it is clearly not Shenstone, as Mr. Erdswick, as well as Mr. Sanders, has asserted; for, *Senestan* was one of the lordships given by the Conqueror to Roger de Montgomery, and was held of him by Robert de Oilge, or D'Oyley. It then contained three hides. The arable land

land was twelve carucates. There were two carucates in demefne, with one bondman, twenty-one villagers, and four bordarers, who employed fourteen ploughs. Here was a mill rented at sixty-six pence, and one acre of meadow : also a wood three miles in length, and one mile and a half in breadth ; it was worth one hundred shillings at the time of this survey, in which it is farther observed, that one Godwyn formerly held it, and was a freeman.

- Page 311, lines 20 and 21. "fifth baron," "sixth baron," read "fourth lord."
 312, 9, How Tanetine de Brai became possessed of Shenstone, we are yet ignorant ; but certainly not by the marriage here mentioned, from what is shewn above.
 212, lines 13 and 15, dele "to him Henry D'Oyley, the constable to the king, granted the lands that Tanetine de Brai, his father, held here."
 313, line 7, Insert the word "*Query*" before "*if*."
 315, line 19, for "Alrewith," read "Alrewich, or Aldrich."
 317, 9, dele "who was, or acted as, joint lord with William Fryth."
 324, 10 and 11, read "mother of Thomas le Scott,"—"and child of Rowland the elder."
 325, line 11, for "Wombon," read "Winborn."
 327, 25, dele "near Mill Green and Aston."
 328, 8, 11, and 17, read "Wildmore,"—dele "and below Wall,"—"streams, particularly Pipe Brook, which, coming from the other side of Hamerwich, passes below Pipe Hill and Wall."
 lines 23 and 27, "runs through the middle of Drayton Bassett Park," "into the Tame ; which last at Tamworth receives the Anker," "into the Trent, by Hopways, Fisherwic, and Croxal, at Which-novre."
 329, lines 17 and 18, read "to Birchley farm (or Owl's Hall), near Lynne, and to the Bourn,"—"which by this time becomes a large water."—dele the rest of the paragraph.
 330, line 1, read "beforementioned."
 339, lines 3 and 9, "dele "or Sir George Vernon, knight."—read "and confirmed his lease."—lines 21, 22, &c. "unintelligible."
 350, lines 23 and 26, "leaves Burton town also, and goes over to the Commons and Boston Moor directly from Monk's Bridge (where it crosses the Dove), to Braunton, thence over the Trent," &c.



APPENDIX - CORRESPONDENCE

1. The first letter was received from Mr. J. H. ...
2. The second letter was received from Mr. J. H. ...
3. The third letter was received from Mr. J. H. ...
4. The fourth letter was received from Mr. J. H. ...
5. The fifth letter was received from Mr. J. H. ...
6. The sixth letter was received from Mr. J. H. ...
7. The seventh letter was received from Mr. J. H. ...
8. The eighth letter was received from Mr. J. H. ...
9. The ninth letter was received from Mr. J. H. ...
10. The tenth letter was received from Mr. J. H. ...



